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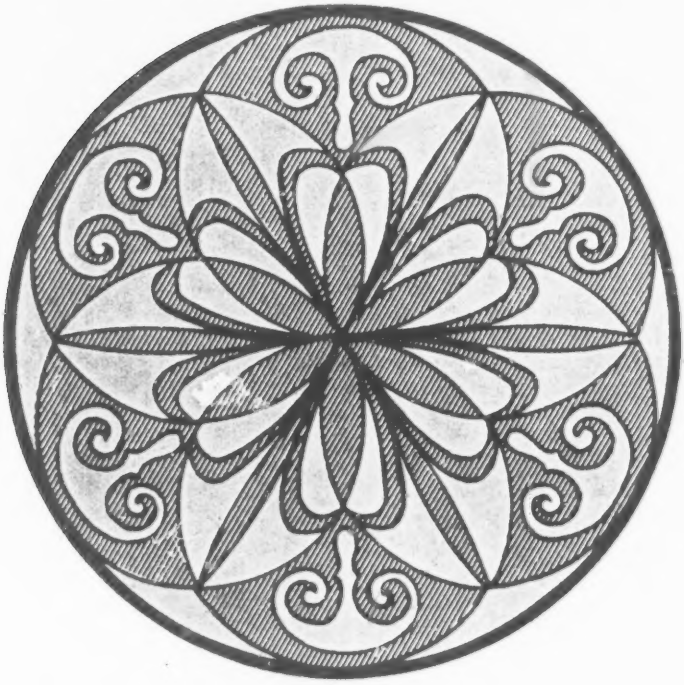
yearbook of american and canadian churches 1981



edited by
Constant H. Jacquet, Jr.

C0105-1

Forty-ninth issue

Annual

yearbook of american and canadian churches 1981

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Published and distributed by Abingdon

Nashville

INTRODUCTION

This edition of the **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches** is the 49th in a series that stretches back to 1916. A listing of years of publication, title, and editor appears on page ii.

In any work of this scope and complexity, the cooperation of many hundreds of people in the United States and Canada is essential not only in terms of supplying information on their organizations but also in correcting directory forms, filling out statistical reports, and providing special articles and other materials. To all who have helped to produce this annual compilation, the editor is most grateful.

There are two innovations in this edition which deserve special mention. "A Calendar for Church Use" has been completely revised to include the major observances for Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Episcopalians and Lutherans as well as the ecumenical celebrations and the other material usually covered. A new listing of Islamic dates has been included. The editor wishes to thank especially Dr. Thomas Talley, of the General Theological Seminary in New York City, for his guidance on this new calendar and is grateful to many others who supplied information. There is also a new Directory 11, "Church-Related Colleges and Universities in Canada," which was prepared by the Rev. Edward Jackman, O.P., of the Toronto archdiocesan archives and a member of the Canadian Advisory Committee for the **Yearbook**. Fr. Jackman's contribution will be useful to many and is greatly appreciated.

The **Yearbook** has been a bi-national volume since 1972 and the editor works with a Canadian Advisory Committee which meets in Toronto annually. This committee has been very helpful in keeping the editor apprised of significant religious developments in Canada.

Mrs. Alice Jones, editorial assistant in the Office of Research, Evaluation and Planning, National Council of Churches, has worked painstakingly on eleven editions of the **Yearbook** and has been an essential part of the editorial operations. The editor thanks her for her many contributions to this volume.

There being no established legal definitions of churches, clergy or religion, these concepts are always subjective. The constitutional separation of church and state has left religious organization basically free from guidance, classification and regulation. Religious bodies, though incorporated legally in a state in the U.S. or a province in Canada, determine their own institutions, doctrines and standards of conduct.

Religious life in the United States and Canada is quite complex. The dynamic nature of these two nations, the patterns of immigration, the exchange of ideas and movements across the border, religious liberty and political freedom, and the high degree of affluence provide conditions supporting the development of religious organizations. In recent years, especially, this has led to the formation of a bewildering diversity of sects and cults, primarily in the U.S. but also in Canada, numbering in the thousands, some of which have received considerable attention in the news media and have been studied in detail by scholars. We do not attempt to list these bodies in the **Yearbook**. Many other small religious bodies, numbering in the hundreds, have, of necessity, been excluded from listing. Other sources of information exist on many of these groups.

What we do attempt to describe and record are the major religious bodies and institutions in the United States and Canada having the great majority of churches, clergy and membership. The editor will be grateful for knowledge of any significant omissions that fall within the categories now covered in the various directory sections in this volume.

What religious bodies are included in each edition of the **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches** must, for reasons stated above, be an editorial matter based upon subjective criteria to some extent, and exclusion from the **Yearbook** should not necessarily be interpreted by readers as an adverse reflection on the nature, purpose, or reputation of any religious body.

Constant H. Jacquet, Jr.
Editor

A GUIDE FOR THE USER OF CHURCH STATISTICS

This guide is placed in a prominent position in each edition of the **Yearbook** to emphasize the fact that church statistics, like those of many other groups, vary greatly in quality and reliability. Therefore, necessary qualifications concerning them must be stated clearly and without reservation.

The **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches** this year reports data from 219 U.S. religious bodies in Section III; Statistical and Historical Section. Of these, 117 bodies report current data; that is, data for the years 1980 or 1979. Current data, comprising 53 percent of all reports, account for 87 percent of recorded membership. Concerning denominations gathering statistics, some computerize data and have an accurate bank of information on cards or tape. Perhaps the largest group of denominations still gather statistics by conventional hand tabulation methods. Quite a few bodies are still operating on the basis of "educated guesses" in many statistical areas.

In addition to the general observations above, four major qualifications should be made about church statistics:

1) Church statistics are always incomplete, and they pass through many hands, some skilled and some not so skilled, and come up through many channels in church bureaucratic structures.

2) Church statistics are not always comparable. Definitions of membership, and of other important categories, vary from denomination to denomination. Jewish statistics are estimates of the number of individuals in households where one or more Jews reside, and, therefore, include non-Jews living in these households as the result of intermarriage. The total number of persons in Jewish households is estimated to be 8 pecent larger than the number of Jewish persons residing in these households. It should be noted that estimates of Jews has nothing to do with membership in synagogues. Roman Catholics and some Protestant bodies count all baptized persons, including children, as members. Most Protestant bodies include only "adults," usually 13 years of age and older, as members.

3) Church statistical data reported in the **Yearbook** are not for a single year. Not only do the reporting years differ from denomination to denomination, but some bodies do not report regularly. Therefore, the reports based on data for the year 1978 or earlier are "non-current" reports. Attempts to combine current and non-current data for purposes of interpretation or projection will lead to difficulties.

4) Many of the more important types of statistical data are simply not available for a large group of denominations. Records on church attendance are rarely kept, and there are no socio-economic data generally available. Statistics of participation by members in church activities and programs do not exist.

Statistics form an important part of church life and are necessary for the sound development of planning and program. Therefore, strong efforts should be made in each denomination to upgrade the quality of its church statistics. Interdenominational cooperation leading toward standardization of categories and sharing of techniques it is hoped, will continue to grow. New ways of adapting data gathered by the U.S. Bureau of the Census to church needs and programs must be discovered and utilized. The use of survey methods to obtain valuable socio-religious information about American religious life should be encouraged and expanded.

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III
STATISTICAL AND HISTORICAL SECTION

This section of the **Yearbook** provides various types of statistical data and information on depositories of church history material for the U.S. and Canada. It is hoped that these materials will be useful in describing some major dimensions of religious life.

Much of the data presented here are unique, at least in form of presentation, and can be used judiciously to interpret developments in the religious life of the U.S. and Canada. Whenever necessary, qualifying statements have been made to warn the user of some of the pitfalls in the data.

Information in this section of the **Yearbook,** when compared with that of previous editions, suggests a number of interesting subjects for students, journalists, and church researchers to analyze and interpret. For the most part, generalizations on trends reflected in the data are left up to the reader.

The following information is contained in this Statistical and Historical Section.

1. **Current and Non-Current Statistical Data.** This section contains nine tables, numbered 1A-J, as follows: 1-A United States Current and Non-Current Statistics, arranged alphabetically for 219 United States religious bodies. Included is information on Number of Churches, Inclusive Membership, Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members (current data only), Number of Pastors Serving Parishes, Total Number of Clergy, Number of Sunday or Sabbath Schools (current data only), and Total enrollment (current data only). Table 1-B, Summary of United States Current and Non-Current Statistics, provides totals for 219 bodies in the above categories and compares these totals with those in the previous **Yearbook** for 1980. Table 1-C, Some Comparative United States Church Statistics, compares data mainly for 1980 with those mainly for 1979 with regard to Church Membership as a Percent of U.S. Population, Membership Gain and Percentage of Gain over Previous Year. Table 1-D, Current and Non-Current Canadian Statistics provides the same data for Canadian bodies as those described above for Table 1-A. Table 1-E provides a Summary of Canadian Current and Non-Current Statistics. Table 1-F, Number of United States Churches and of Members, by Religious Groups, is continued from the previous year with all the necessary qualifications, Table 1-G. Constituency of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., is followed by Table 1-H, Church Membership Statistics, 1940-1979, for Selected U.S. Denominations. Table 1-J, Inclusive Membership, 51 Compilations, concludes this section.

2. **Church Financial Statistics and Related Data.** Complete data on contributions of members of 67 United States and Canadian religious bodies are supplied in the following categories: Total Contributions, Total Congregational Finances, and Benevolences. Per capita contributions based on both Inclusive and Full or Confirmed Membership are supplemented by Related Data consisting of several charts and tables reflecting relevant background trends relating to income and expenditures in the U.S. and Canada.

3. **Some Trends and Developments.** This part of the Statistical and Historical Section contains Trends in Seminary Enrollment: 1975-1980, and this section is concluded with the 1980 Official Catholic Data.

4. **Surveys of Religion in American Life.** Three surveys are reported in this section. The first is an article by Dr. Loyde H. Hartley, Dean of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, entitled "Inflation and Recession Hit the Local Church Budgets." This is followed by the Gallup surveys on church attendance and other related matters and the U.S. Department of Commerce estimates of the value of new construction of religious buildings which are annual reports in the **Yearbook.**

5. **Main Depositories of Church History Material and Sources.** This is a listing, by denomination, of various major depositories of historical and archival materials in the United States and Canada, including a bibliographical guide to information on church archives.

1. CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICAL DATA

Tables 1 A-J in this section, containing current and non-current data, have been compiled from questionnaires returned to the **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches** by statisticians and other officials of religious bodies. These statistics have been checked carefully, but in no case have they been "adjusted" by the editor in any way for any purpose. What is reported here are official reports.

In Table 1-A, the religious bodies in the U.S. are listed alphabetically and current data appear in **bold face** type. Non-current data appear in the light face type. Current data are those compiled and reported in 1980 or 1979. Non-current data are those for 1978 or earlier. Table 1-A contains 117 current reports and 102 noncurrent, making a total of 219. Current reports, comprising 53 percent of all reports, account for 87 percent of reported membership.

Statistics appearing in Table 1-G, Constituency of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., do not show the distinction between current and non-current data, although the date of the last statistical report received is noted for each religious body. This year Table 1-D, Canadian Current and Non-Current Statistics, contains statistical reports from 80 Canadian bodies, two more than the previous edition of the **Yearbook**.

Caution should be exercised in interpreting Table 1-B, Summary of United States Current and Non-Current Statistics, which indicates the general trends that are shown by the data in the 1980 and 1981 **Yearbooks.** Since current and non-current statistics are combined for this comparison, the dangers of elaborate generalizations are obvious. The same is true for Table 1-C. Some Comparative United States Church Statistics.

Users of church statistics are referred to "A Guide for the User of Church Statistics," found at the front of this **Yearbook**. It is essential reading for all who intend to work with, and interpret, statistics contained in this volume. The Guide is placed in this prominent position to highlight its importance, and its chief function is to state candidly the many qualifications which must be taken into account when using church statistics.

TABLE 1-A: UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS

The following table provides current and non-current statistics for United States religious bodies listed alphabetically. Current statistics are defined as those gathered and reported for 1980 and 1979. These bodies having current statistics and the statistics themselves, are shown in **bold face** type. Non-current statistics are those for 1978 or earlier. They appear in light face type. No statistics for "Full, Communicant, or Confirmed members," "Number of Sunday or Sabbath Schools," and "Total Enrollment" are reported for bodies having non-current statistics.

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
Advent Christian Church	**1979**	**366**	**29,535**	**22,088**	**325**	**487**	**323**	**20,561**
African Methodist Episcopal Church	**1979**	**3,050**	**1,970,000**	**1,960,000**	**3,560**	**3,938**	**2,550**	**105,250**
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	**1979**	**6,020**	**1,125,176**	**1,012,706**	**6,556**	**6,716**	**6,018**	**193,672**
Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America	1978	16	40,000		16	25		
Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America	**1979**	**10**	**5,250**	**475**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**130**
Amana Church Society	1970	7	735		None	None		
American Baptist Association	**1980**	**5,000**	**1,500,000**	**1,500,000**	**5,000**	**5,700**	**5,000**	**800,000**
American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.	1978	5,897	1,271,688		4,330	7,299		
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church	1976	70	100,000		61	68		
The American Lutheran Church	**1979**	**4,849**	**2,362,685**	**1,768,071**	**4,416**	**6,925**	**4,361**	**573,045**
American Rescue Workers	**1979**	**15**	**2,140**		**32**	**43**		
The Anglican Orthodox Church	1972	37	2,630		12	14		
The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America	1977	110	152,000		120	132		
Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean)	**1979**	**43**	**2,497**	**2,497**	**127**	**127**	**43**	**2,171**
Apostolic Christian Churches of America	**1980**	**81**	**10,672**	**10,672**	**247**	**270**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Apostolic Faith	**1979**	**45**	**4,100**	**4,100**	**75**	**75**	**44**	**6,800**
Apostolic Lutheran Church of America	1974	54	9,384		34	36		
Apostolic Overcoming Holy Church of God	1956	300	75,000		300	350		
Armenian Apostolic Church of America	1972	29	125,000		23	34		
Armenian Church of America, Diocese of the (including Diocese of California)	**1979**	**66**	**450,000**	**10,000**	**45**	**61**	**57**	**3,500**
Assemblies of God*	**1979**	**9,562**	**1,629,014**	**958,418**	**9,848**	**22,584**	**9,562**	**1,350,216**
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod	**1979**	**159**	**31,984**	**28,513**	**115**	**179**	**147**	**14,864**
Baptist General Conference	**1979**	**701**	**126,800**	**126,800**	**980**	**1,325**	**701**	**110,379**
Baptist Missionary Association of America	**1979**	**1,439**	**226,290**	**226,290**	**2,500**	**2,500**	**1,435**	**102,455**

TABLE 1-A: UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
Beachy Amish Mennonite Church	**1979**	**77**	**4,846**	**4,846**	**N.R.**	**184**	**None**	**None**
Berean Fundamental Church	1976	50	4,269		61	62		
Bethel Ministerial Association	1971	25	5,000		53	57		
The Bible Church of Christ, Inc.	**1979**	**5**	**2,300**	**2,300**	**5**	**17**	**5**	**719**
Bible Protestant Church	1978	36	2,077		38	58		
Bible Way Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, World Wide, Inc.	1970	350	30,000		350	350		
Brethren Church (Ashland, Ohio)	1978	122	15,082		94	160		
Brethren in Christ Church	**1979**	**164**	**15,283**	**12,923**	**126**	**266**	**164**	**13,483**
Buddhist Churches of America	1975	60	60,000		80	108		
Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church (Diocese of N. & S. America and Australia)	1971	13	86,000		N.R.	11		
Christ Catholic Church	**1979**	**8**	**1,415**	**1,306**	**9**	**10**	**3**	**99**
Christadelphians	1964	850	15,800		None	None		
The Christian and Missionary Alliance	**1979**	**1,319**	**173,986**	**96,324**	**1,078**	**1,640**	**1,202**	**157,796**
Christian Catholic Church (Evangelical-Protestant)	**1980**	**6**	**2,500**	**2,500**	**10**	**16**	**5**	**1,387**
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	**1979**	**4,324**	**1,231,061**	**773,765**	**3,988**	**6,607**	**4,324**	**356,102**
Christian Church of North America, General Council	**1980**	**102**	**12,000**	**12,000**	**102**	**177**	**102**	**10,500**
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	**1979**	**5,535**	**1,054,266**	**1,054,266**	**5,989**	**7,689**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Christian Congregation, Inc.	**1979**	**1,159**	**83,199**	**83,199**	**1,159**	**1,169**	**1,057**	**47,940**
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church	1965	2,598	466,718		2,214	2,259		
Christian Nation Church, U.S.A.	1976	18	2,000		26	28		
Christian Reformed Church in North America	**1979**	**632**	**212,700**	**130,919**	**570**	**990**	**N.R.**	**55,238**
Christian Union	**1979**	**108**	**5,463**	**5,463**	**80**	**96**	**97**	**7,637**
Church of Christ	1972	32	2,400		169	188		
Church of Daniel's Band	1951	4	200		4	10		
The Church of God	1978	2,035	75,800		1,910	2,737		
Church of God (Anderson, Ind.)	**1979**	**2,259**	**175,113**	**175,113**	**1,808**	**3,018**	**2,238**	**228,380**
Church of God by Faith	1973	105	4,500		125	150		
Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)	**1979**	**5,018**	**411,385**	**411,385**	**8,510**	**9,385**	**4,948**	**347,531**
Church of God General Conference (Oregon, Ill.)	**1979**	**131**	**7,620**	**7,620**	**108**	**124**	**134**	**9,530**
The Church of God in Christ	1965	4,500	425,000		4,000	6,000		
The Church of God in Christ, International	1971	1,041	501,000		N.R.	1,502		
Church of God in Christ (Mennonite)	**1979**	**78**	**7,259**	**7,259**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Church of God of Prophecy*	**1979**	**1,930**	**227,850**	**89,285**	**2,295**	**2,370**	**3,659**	**232,284**

TABLE 1-A: UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
The Church of God of the Mountain Assembly	1977	105	3,125		162	162		
Church of God (7th Day)	1960	7	2,000		7	9		
Church of God (Seventh Day) Denver, Colo.	1976	104	8,000		70	110		
Church of God (Which He Purchased With His Own Blood)	**1980**	**8**	**799**	**799**	**4**	**9**	**8**	**178**
The Church of Illumination	1963	14	9,000		60	60		
The Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonites)	**1979**	**57**	**2,567**	**2,567**	**178**	**239**	**57**	**5,500**
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	**1979**	**6,738**	**2,706,000**	**2,186,000**	**20,394**	**23,073**	**8,798**	**2,528,000**
Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith	1954	155	45,000		150	165		
Church of the Brethren	**1979**	**1,061**	**172,115**	**172,115**	**N.R.**	**1,911**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Church of the Living God	1964	276	45,320		332	376		
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America	**1979**	**103**	**10,267**	**8,305**	**79**	**143**	**97**	**9,105**
Church of the Lutheran Confession	**1979**	**72**	**9,340**	**9,340**	**57**	**73**	**63**	**1,568**
Church of the Nazarene	**1979**	**4,831**	**474,820**	**473,726**	**N.R.**	**7,745**	**5,378**	**686,106**
Churches of Christ	**1979**	**12,700**	**1,600,000**	**1,240,000**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**11,725**	**960,000**
Churches of Christ in Christian Union	**1979**	**262**	**10,703**	**10,703**	**N.R.**	**562**	**262**	**20,900**
Churches of God, General Conference	**1979**	**345**	**34,874**	**34,874**	**208**	**307**	**345**	**31,560**
Community Churches, National Council of	**1979**	**185**	**190,000**	**N.R.**	**210**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Congregational Christian Churches, National Association of	**1980**	**393**	**100,000**	**100,000**	**443**	**706**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Congregational Holiness Church	1966	147	4,859		146	302		
Conservative Baptist Association of America	**1979**	**1,125**	**225,000**	**225,000**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference	**1979**	**133**	**23,751**	**23,751**	**228**	**365**	**129**	**12,764**
Coptic Orthodox Church	**1980**	**25**	**100,000**	**100,000**	**22**	**25**	**22**	**4,150**
Cumberland Presbyterian Church	**1979**	**854**	**94,574**	**89,218**	**523**	**722**	**854**	**49,553**
Duck River (and Kindred) Associations of Baptists	1975	85	8,632		148	148		
Elim Fellowship	**1980**	**28**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**118**	**158**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Episcopal Church	**1979**	**7,022**	**2,841,350**	**1,982,062**	**7,357**	**12,800**	**N.R.**	**561,741**
The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church	**1979**	**22**	**8,481**	**8,481**	**18**	**22**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Ethical Culture Movement	**1979**	**21**	**5,000**	**4,000**	**12**	**27**	**19**	**539**
Evangelical Church of North America	**1979**	**142**	**12,581**	**12,581**	**148**	**227**	**142**	**15,950**
Evangelical Congregational Church	**1980**	**160**	**27,995**	**27,995**	**135**	**197**	**159**	**23,078**
Evangelical Covenant Church of America	**1979**	**529**	**78,092**	**78,092**	**481**	**770**	**486**	**84,976**
Evangelical Free Church in America	**1979**	**732**	**77,592**	**77,592**	**N.R.**	**1,218**	**N.R.**	**95,160**
Evangelical Friends Alliance	1975	257	25,531		N.R.	N.R.		
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Nielsen Synod)	1957	9	2,500		3	3		

TABLE 1-A: UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the Association of	**1979**	**283**	**113,942**	**79,898**	**310**	**532**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod	**1979**	**110**	**20,044**	**15,081**	**79**	**94**	**104**	**3,547**
Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Conference	**1979**	**16**	**2,165**	**2,165**	**11**	**43**	**16**	**2,187**
Evangelical Mennonite Church	**1979**	**21**	**3,704**	**3,704**	**30**	**48**	**21**	**4,679**
Evangelical Methodist Church	1974	139	10,502		145	218		
The Fire Baptized Holiness Church (Wesleyan)	1958	53	998		N.R.	N.R.		
Free Christian Zion Church of Christ	1956	742	22,260		321	340		
Free Lutheran Congregations, The Association of	**1980**	**150**	**14,738**	**11,085**	**67**	**97**	**119**	**5,402**
Free Methodist Church of North America	**1979**	**1,013**	**87,394**	**51,263**	**N.R.**	**1,637**	**998**	**106,578**
Free Will Baptists	**1979**	**2,437**	**231,167**	**231,167**	**2,762**	**4,525**	**2,437**	**173,868**
Friends General Conference	1974	233	26,184		None	None		
Friends United Meeting	**1979**	**530**	**61,366**	**51,426**	**371**	**607**	**422**	**26,625**
Full Gospel Assemblies, International	**1979**	**124**	**2,900**	**2,900**	**480**	**480**	**40**	**1,020**
Full Gospel Fellowship of Churches and Ministers, International	**1980**	**394**	**59,100**	**59,100**	**807**	**931**	**394**	**39,400**
Fundamental Methodist Church, Inc	**1980**	**14**	**700**	**700**	**15**	**15**	**12**	**596**
General Association of Regular Baptist Churches	1980	1,557	244,000	244,000	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.
General Baptists (General Association of)	**1979**	**866**	**73,046**	**73,046**	**N.R.**	**1,309**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
General Church of the New Jerusalem	1971	33	2,143		17	31		
General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches	**1979**	**123**	**16,165**	**16,165**	**114**	**114**	**123**	**25,983**
General Conference of the Evangelical Baptist Church, Inc	1952	31	2,200		22	37		
General Convention, The Swedenborgian Church	1977	47	2,640		48	51		
General Six Principle Baptists	1970	7	175		4	7		
Grace Brethren Churches, Fellowship of	1978	262	39,605		357	529		
Grace Gospel Fellowship	**1979**	**51**	**3,900**	**2,200**	**106**	**139**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America	1977	535	1,950,000		610	655		
The Holiness Church of God, Inc	1968	28	927		25	36		
Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of The East (Assyrian)	**1980**	**12**	**29,100**	**29,100**	**45**	**52**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Holy Orthodox Church in America, Eastern Catholic and Apostolic	1965	4	260		4	10		
Holy Ukrainian Autocephalic Church in Exile	1965	15	4,800		15	24		
House of God, Which is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Inc	1956	107	2,350		80	120		
Hungarian Reformed Church in America	1978	29	10,500		24	39		
Hutterian Brethren	**1979**	**35**	**3,443**	**3,443**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Independent Assemblies of God, International	1962	136	N.R.		136	367		
Independent Fundamental Churches of America	**1980**	**1,019**	**120,446**	**120,446**	**762**	**1,366**	**1,019**	**136,983**

TABLE 1-A: UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
International Church of the Foursquare Gospel	1963	714	89,215		741	2,690		
International Pentecostal Church of Christ	**1979**	**85**	**4,997**	**2,591**	**119**	**180**	**80**	**5,237**
Jehovah's Witnesses	**1979**	**7,545**	**526,961**	**526,961**	**None**	**None**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Jews	**1979**	**3,500**	**5,860,900**	**N.R.**	**4,000**	**5,300**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Kodesh Church of Immanuel	**1960**	**5**	**326**	**326**	**5**	**28**	**5**	**180**
The Latvian Evangelical Church in America	**1979**	**64**	**14,294**	**12,392**	**53**	**70**	**26**	**903**
Liberal Catholic Church—Province of the United States of America	1973	29	2,963		61	107		
Lutheran Church in America	**1979**	**5,788**	**2,921,090**	**2,177,231**	**4,978**	**7,944**	**5,597**	**680,977**
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	**1979**	**5,689**	**2,623,181**	**1,965,422**	**4,596**	**7,211**	**5,489**	**637,390**
Mennonite Church	**1979**	**1,107**	**98,027**	**98,027**	**1,912**	**2,596**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Mennonite Church, The General Conference	**1979**	**196**	**36,775**	**36,775**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Metropolitan Church Association, Inc.	1958	15	443		13	62		
Metropolitan Community Churches, Universal Fellowship of	**1980**	**150**	**26,000**	**12,000**	**152**	**167**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Missionary Church	1972	273	20,078		327	470		
Moravian Church—Northern Province	**1979**	**95**	**32,588**	**25,342**	**85**	**153**	**91**	**7,725**
Moravian Church—Southern Province	**1979**	**53**	**21,058**	**17,186**	**54**	**69**	**53**	**9,047**
National Baptist Convention of America	1956	11,398	2,668,799		7,596	28,574		
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.	1958	26,000	5,500,000		26,000	27,500		
National Primitive Baptist Convention, Inc.	1975	606	250,000		480	636		
The National Spiritual Alliance of the U.S.A.	1971	34	3,230		58	N.R.		
National Spiritualist Association of Churches	1976	164	5,168		144	N.R.		
Netherlands Reformed Congregations	**1979**	**14**	**4,876**	**2,489**	**3**	**3**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
New Apostolic Church of North America	**1979**	**371**	**27,071**	**27,071**	**517**	**590**	**371**	**9,639**
North American Baptist Conference	**1979**	**254**	**42,779**	**42,779**	**257**	**350**	**223**	**26,894**
North American Old Roman Catholic Church	**1979**	**121**	**69,412**	**51,700**	**87**	**123**	**43**	**9,625**
North American Old Roman Catholic Church (Archdiocese of New York)	**1979**	**6**	**5,600**	**5,600**	**14**	**16**	**4**	**61**
Old German Baptist Brethren	**1979**	**53**	**4,987**	**4,987**	**223**	**223**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Old Order Amish Church	**1979**	**535**	**80,250**	**80,250**	**2,140**	**2,140**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Old Order (Wisler) Mennonite Church	1972	38	8,000		60	101		
Open Bible Standard Churches, Inc.	**1980**	**283**	**60,000**	**30,000**	**503**	**797**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The (Original) Church of God	1971	70	20,000		50	124		
Orthodox Church in America	1978	440	1,000,000		457	531		
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church	**1979**	**146**	**16,265**	**11,300**	**160**	**256**	**144**	**10,500**
Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.	1980	550	4,500		450	600		
Pentecostal Church of God	1977	1,189	110,870		1,320	2,168		

TABLE 1-A: UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
Pentecostal Fire-Baptized Holiness Church	1969	41	545		80	80		
The Pentecostal Free-Will Baptist Church, Inc	1978	128	12,272		120	195		
Pentecostal Holiness Church	1977	2,340	86,103		1,329	2,899		
Pillar of Fire	1949	61	5,100		N.R.	N.R.		
Plymouth Brethren	**1980**	**850**	**79,000**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**400**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Polish National Catholic Church of America	1960	162	282,411		141	141		
Presbyterian Church in America	**1979**	**460**	**86,885**	**77,102**	**435**	**668**	**460**	**43,613**
Presbyterian Church in the United States	**1979**	**4,067**	**852,711**	**852,711**	**3,114**	**5,431**	**4,000**	**400,187**
Primitive Advent Christian Church	**1979**	**10**	**524**	**524**	**12**	**12**	**9**	**424**
Primitive Baptists	1960	1,000	72,000		N.R.	N.R.		
Primitive Methodist Church, U.S.A.	**1979**	**87**	**10,126**	**6,974**	**71**	**97**	**80**	**6,508**
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc	1967	655	521,692		N.R.	863		
The Protestant Conference (Lutheran)	**1979**	**8**	**1,950**	**850**	**6**	**8**	**8**	**145**
Protestant Reformed Churches in America	**1979**	**21**	**4,383**	**2,417**	**18**	**30**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Reformed Baptists	**1980**	**250**	**5,000**	**N.R.**	**300**	**300**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Reformed Church in America	**1979**	**904**	**348,417**	**211,591**	**838**	**1,456**	**904**	**105,851**
Reformed Church in the United States	1977	26	3,790		22	31		
Reformed Episcopal Church	1977	68	6,211		N.R.	91		
Reformed Mennonite Church	1970	12	500		18	21		
Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church	1976	17	3,800		17	26		
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod	1977	145	25,448		255	385		
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America	1977	68	4,878		51	86		
Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church	1965	50	16,000		23	N.R.		
Religious Society of Friends (Conservative)	1976	26	1,728		None	None		
Religious Society of Friends (Unaffiliated Meetings)	1975	87	5,696		None	None		
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	**1979**	**1,045**	**188,580**	**188,580**	**16,386**	**16,386**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Roman Catholic Church	**1979**	**24,161**	**49,812,178**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**59,059**	**10,386**	**8,264,717**
The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America	**1979**	**34**	**40,000**	**40,000**	**34**	**55**	**34**	**1,651**
Russian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A., Patriarchal Parishes of the	1975	41	51,500		55	60		
The Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia	1955	81	55,000		92	168		
The Salvation Army	**1979**	**1,067**	**414,659**	**120,526**	**2,334**	**5,165**	**1,084**	**105,193**
The Schwenkfelder Church	1977	5	2,748		6	9		
Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the US	1959	121	30,000		121	125		

TABLE 1-A: UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
Separate Baptists in Christ	1972	84	7,496		65	106		
Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church for the U.S.A. and Canada	1967	52	65,000		56	64		
Seventh-Day Adventists	**1979**	**3,672**	**553,089**	**553,089**	**1,875**	**4,388**	**3,748**	**436,792**
Seventh Day Baptist General Conference	**1979**	**80**	**5,125**	**5,125**	**53**	**91**	**36**	**1,545**
Social Brethren	1975	30	1,784		47	47		
Southern Baptist Convention	**1979**	**35,552**	**13,372,757**	**13,372,757**	**33,600**	**56,200**	**34,705**	**7,310,894**
Southern Methodist Church	1977	169	11,000		113	127		
Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch (Archdiocese of the U.S.A. and Canada)	1978	13	30,000		14	18		
Triumph the Church and Kingdom of God in Christ (International)	1972	475	54,307		860	1,375		
Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A.	1960	107	87,745		107	131		
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America (Ecumenical Patriarchate)	1977	28	25,000		32	35		
Unitarian Universalist Association	**1979**	**988**	**139,052**	**139,052**	**550**	**942**	**N.R.**	**37,300**
United Brethren in Christ	1966	281	28,035		165	290		
United Christian Church	1976	11	430		5	11		
United Church of Christ	**1979**	**6,467**	**1,745,533**	**1,745,533**	**5,195**	**9,892**	**N.P.**	**487,084**
United Free Will Baptist Church	1952	836	100,000		794	915		
United Holy Church of America	1960	470	28,980		379	400		
The United Methodist Church	**1979**	**38,576**	**9,853,711**	**9,853,711**	**20,178**	**36,066**	**36,388**	**4,277,050**
United Pentecostal Church, International	**1980**	**2,829**	**485,000**	**310,000**	**2,956**	**6,063**	**N.R**	**N.R.**
The United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America	**1979**	**8,633**	**2,477,364**	**2,469,076**	**7,525**	**14,092**	**8,633**	**852,957**
United Zion Church	1978	13	952		16	24		
Unity of the Brethren	1964	32	6,142		13	13		
Vedanta Society	**1979**	**12**	**1,000**	**1,000**	**1**	**1**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Volunteers of America	1978	607	36,634		704	704		
The Wesleyan Church	**1979**	**1,717**	**100,925**	**88,093**	**1,418**	**2,356**	**1,717**	**199,328**
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod	**1979**	**1,126**	**404,564**	**306,264**	**963**	**1,276**	**1,061**	**47,027**

* Assemblies of God data include for the first time in the inclusive membership category "constituents" who are defined as individuals of all ages who attend Sunday school or otherwise identify with an Assembly of God church.

** Church of God of Prophecy data include for the first time additional "other members" who were not reported in prior reports in the inclusive membership category. They number 158,565.

Table 1-B: SUMMARY OF UNITED STATES CURRENT AND NON—CURRENT STATISTICS

Current statistics are those reported for the years 1980 or 1979. Non-current statistics are those for the years 1978 and earlier. Only current totals are provided in the categories: Full, Communicant, or Confirmed Members; Number of Sunday or Sabbath Schools; Total Enrollment.

	No. of Bodies	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
1981 Yearbook								
Current	117	257,712	116,177,975	53,596,577	213,929	396,187	196,409	34,515,621
Non-Current	102	73,353	17,291,715	N.R.	60,369	98,483	N.R.	N.R.
Totals	219	331,065	133,469,690		274,298	494,670		
1980 Yearbook								
Current	111	259,193	116,819,426*	57,575,568	224,507	393,884	196,237	35,639,778
Non-Current	111	73,777	16,569,350	N.R.	57,994	103,417	N.R.	N.R.
Totals	222	332,970	133,388,776*		282,501	497,301		

*This total has been corrected by adjusting downward by 360,000 statistics incorrectly posted for inclusive membership of one denomination reported in the 1980 edition.

TABLE 1-C: SOME COMPARATIVE UNITED STATES CHURCH STATISTICS

	1979	1980
Church Membership as a Percent of U.S. Population	60.7	60.5
Membership Gain or Loss over Previous Year	576,306*	80,914
Percentage or Gain or Loss over Previous Year	0.4	0.06

* This figure has been adjusted downward by 360,000 to correct a posting error on one denominational inclusive membership total appearing in the 1980 edition.

TABLE 1-F: NUMBER OF UNITED STATES CHURCHES, AND OF MEMBERS, BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS

The 219 U.S. religious bodies reporting in this edition of the **Yearbook** may be classified somewhat arbitrarily, into seven major categories.

It should be reiterated that comparisons of statistics of the various religious groups tabulated below are not meaningful because definitions of membership vary greatly from one religious body to another. For example, Roman Catholics count all baptized individuals, including infant members, as do many Protestant bodies. Some Protestant bodies, however, count as members those who have been received into the church at baptism, which usually takes place at around age 13, thereby leaving out of official counts of membership many millions of children. Jewish statistics are estimates of the number of individuals in households in which one or more Jews reside and, therefore, include non-Jews living in such households as the result of intermarriage. The total number of persons in Jewish households is estimated to be 8 percent larger than the number of Jewish persons residing in these households.

The definition of membership in each case is of necessity left up to the religious body itself, and the statistics reported by various religious bodies are not adjusted by the editor of the **Yearbook.**

	Number Bodies Reporting	Number of Churches	Number of Members
Buddhists	1	60	60,000
Eastern Churches	18	1,606	3,821,655
Jews*	1	3,500	5,860,900
Old Catholic, Polish National Catholic, Armenian Churches	7	421	936,801
Protestants**	184	300,077	72,814,971
Roman Catholic	1	24,161	49,812,178
Miscellaneous***	7	1,240	163,185
Totals	219	331,065	133,469,690

*Including Orthodox, Conservative, and Reformed branches.

**Some bodies included here are, strictly speaking, not "Protestant" in the usual sense, such as various Latter-Day Saints groups and Jehovah's Witnesses.

***This is a grouping of bodies officially non-Christian, including those such as Spiritualists, Ethical Culture Movement, and Unitarian-Universalists.

TABLE 1-H: CHURCH MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS, 1940-1979

Compiled by Constant H. Jacquet Jr., Editor.

The following statistical time series for 30 U.S. denominations is presented in this edition of the **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches** as a response to a number of requests for such a tabulation. The denominations selected represent a cross-section of theological orientations, ecclesiastical structures, and geographical foci. Reliability and completeness in statistical reporting were the criteria used in selecting the bodies. Many conclusions can be drawn from the material presented below but interpretations are left to the user of the statistics. The reader is referred to the qualifications relating to statistical data stated throughout this statistical and historical section and in "A Guide for the User of Church Statistics" on page iv.

Denomination	1940	1947*	1950	1955
American Lutheran Church	(1,129,349)	N.A.	(1,587,152)	(1,911,641)
Assemblies of God[b]	198,834	241,782	318,478	400,047
Baptist General Conference	N.A.	N.A.	48,647[c]	54,000
Christian and Missionary Alliance**	22,832[d]	N.A.	58,347	57,109[e]
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	1,658,966	1,889,066	1,767,964	1,897,736
Church of God (Anderson, Ind.)	74,497	95,325	107,094	123,523
Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)	63,216	N.A.	121,706[f]	142,668
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	724,401[d]	911,279	1,111,314	1,230,021
Church of the Brethren	176,908	182,497	186,201	195,609
Church of the Nazarene	165,532	201,487[g]	226,684	270,576
Cumberland Presbyterian Church	73,357	75,427	81,806	84,990
Episcopal Church	1,996,434	2,155,514	2,417,464	2,852,965[h]
Evangelical Covenant Church of America	45,634	N.A.	51,850	55,311
Free Methodist Church of North America	45,890	46,783[g]	48,574	51,437
Jehovah's Witnesses	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	187,120
Lutheran Church in America	(1,988,277)	N.A.	(2,395,356)	(2,760,442)
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	1,277,097	1,422,513	1,674,901	2,004,110
Mennonite Church	51,304	52,596	56,480	70,283
North American Baptist Conference	N.A.	N.A.	41,560	47,319
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.	532,135	596,037	678,206	810,917
Reformed Church in America	255,107	274,455	284,504	319,593
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	106,554	116,888	124,925	137,856
Roman Catholic Church	21,284,455	24,402,124	28,634,878	33,396,647
Salvation Army	238,357	205,881	209,341	249,641
Seventh-day Adventists	176,218	208,030	237,168	277,162
Southern Baptist Convention	4,949,174	6,079,305	7,079,889	8,467,439
United Church of Christ	(1,708,146)	(1,835,853)	(1,977,418)	(2,116,322)
United Methodist Church	(8,043,454)	(9,135,248)	(9,653,178)	(10,029,535)
United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.	(2,158,834)	(2,373,345)	(2,532,429)	(2,890,718)
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod	256,007[d]	259,097	307,216	328,969

*Reported in the **Christian Herald,** June, 1947. Only bodies of 50,000 or more reported.

(a) Data for 1966
(b) Assemblies of God statistics for 1971 and later are full membership statistics.
(c) Data for 1952
(d) Data for 1939
(e) Data for 1954
(f) Data for 1951
(g) Data for 1945
(h) Data for 1956
(j) Data for 1961
(k) Adjusted downward to eliminate Canadian membership of 5,951 previously reported.

**A change in the basis of reporting occurred in this body and statistics for 1970-1977 are inclusive statistics as opposed to those reported earlier.

FOR SELECTED U.S. DENOMINATIONS

Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches

(Note: Statistics contained in parentheses are composite totals for the denominations listed prior to merger of the several component bodies. The symbol NA means "Not Available." Most recent titles are used in the case of denominations listed. For information concerning dates and circumstances of merger, see the historical sketches for these denominations in Directory 3, "Religious Bodies in the United States" in this edition.)

1960	1965	1970	1975	1977	1978	1979
2,242,259	2,541,546	2,543,293	2,415,687	2,390,076	2,377,235	2,362,685
508,602	572,123	625,027	785,348	939,312	932,365	958,418
72,056	86,719	103,955	115,340	120,222	131,000	126,800
59,657	64,586	112,519	145,833	152,841	158,218	173,986
1,801,821	1,918,471	1,424,479	1,302,164	1,256,849	1,231,817	1,213,061
142,796	143,231	150,198	168,257	171,947	173,753	175,113
170,261	205,465	272,278	343,249	377,765	392,551	411,385
1,486,887	1,789,175	2,073,146	2,336,715	2,486,261	2,592,000	2,706,000
199,947	194,815	182,614	179,336	177,534	175,335	172,115
307,629	343,380	383,284	441,093	455,648	462,724	474,820
88,452	78,917	92,095	94,050	93,200	93,268	94,574
3,269,325	3,429,153(a)	3,285,826	2,857,513	2,818,830	2,815,359	2,841,350
60,090	65,780	67,441	71,808	74,060	74,678	76,092
55,338	59,415	64,901	67,043	69,134	67,343(k)	67,394
250,000	330,358	388,920	560,897	554,018	519,218	526,961
(3,053,243)	3,142,752	3,106,844	2,986,078	2,967,168	2,942,002	2,921,090
2,391,195	2,692,889	2,788,536	2,763,545	2,673,321	2,631,374	2,623,181
73,125	80,087	88,522	94,209	96,609	97,142	98,027
50,646	53,711	55,080	42,122	42,724	42,499	42,779
902,849	950,139	958,195	878,126	869,693	862,416	852,711
354,621	385,754	367,606	355,052	351,438	348,080	348,417
155,291	168,355	152,670	157,762	186,414	185,636	188,580
42,104,900	46,246,175	48,214,729	48,881,872	49,836,176	49,602,035	49,812,178
254,141	287,991	326,934	384,817	396,238	414,035	414,659
317,852	364,666	420,419	495,699	522,317	535,705	553,089
9,731,591	10,770,573	11,628,032	12,733,124	13,073,239	13,191,394	13,372,757
(2,241,134)	2,070,413	1,960,608	1,818,762	1,785,652	1,769,104	1,745,533
(10,641,310)	(11,067,497)	10,671,774	9,957,710	9,785,534	9,731,779	9,653,711
3,259,011	3,034,321	3,087,213	2,657,699	2,561,234	2,520,367	2,477,364
348,184(l)	358,466	381,321	395,440	401,489	402,972	404,564

TABLE 1-I: INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP, 51 COMPILATIONS

The following are the figures reported on inclusive membership in religious bodies in the U.S. in 51 compilations, between 1890 and 1979 as reported in the Census of Religious Bodies, as indicated, and by private publications. For years omitted, no compilations were made.

1890	41,699,342	(CRB)[1]	1955	100,162,529	(YBAC)
1906	35,068,058	(CRB)	1956	103,224,954	(YBAC)
1916	41,926,852	(CRB)	1957	104,189,678	(YBAC)
1926	54,576,346	(CRB)	1958	109,557,741	(YBAC)
1931	59,268,764	(CH)[2]	1959	112,226,905	(YBAC)
1932	60,157,392	(CH)	1960	114,449,217	(YBAC)
1933	60,812,624	(CH)	1961	116,109,929	(YBAC)
1934	62,007,376	(CH)	1962	117,946,002	(YBAC)
1935	62,678,177	(CH)	1963	120,965,238	(YBAC)
1936	55,807,366	(CRB)	1964	123,307,449	(YBAC)
1936	63,221,996	(CH)	1965	124,682,422	(YBAC)
1937	63,848,094	(CH)	1966	125,778,656	(YBAC)
1938	64,156,895	(YBAC)[3]	1967	126,445,110	(YBAC)
1940	64,501,594	(YBAC)	1968	128,469,636	(YBAC)
1942	68,501,186	(YBAC)	1969	128,505,084	(YBAC)
1944	72,492,699	(YBAC)	1970	131,045,053	(YBAC)
1945	71,700,142*	(CH)	1971	131,389,642	(YBAC)
1946	73,673,182*	(CH)	1972	131,424,564	(YBAC)
1947	77,386,188	(CH)	1973	131,245,139	(YBAC)
1948	79,435,605	(CH)	1974	131,871,743	(YBAC)
1949	81,862,328	(CH)	1975	131,012,953	(YBACC)
1950	86,830,490	(YBAC)	1976	131,897,539	(YBACC)
1951	88,673,005	(YBAC)	1977	131,812,470	(YBACC)
1952	92,277,129	(YBAC)	1978	133,388,776*	(YBACC)
1953	94,842,845	(YBAC)	1979	133,469,690	(YBACC)
1954	97,482,611	(YBAC)			

Note: For certain other years *Christian Herald*, New York, published compilations of "communicant" or adult membership only. These totals are not included in the table because they are not comparable with the inclusive figures here noted.

[1] CRB—*Census of Religious Bodies*, Bureau of the Census. Washington.

[2] CH—*The Christian Herald*, New York.

[3] YBAC—*Yearbook of American Churches*, New York.

[4] YBACC—*Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*, New York.

*Including only bodies with over 50,000 members.

* Adjusted downward by 360,000 from the last edition because of incorrect posting of an inclusive membership total for one denomination which was added into this total.

As a general record of the trends in church membership since 1890, the above table is very useful since it presents the results of fifty-one compilations made by various statisticians. It is the only record existing on church membership. Although the table follows a logical progression upwards over time, it is by no means without its faults.

There are certain qualifications relating to the above data that should be kept in mind. First of all, aggregate data on inclusive membership, while accounting for the bulk of church membership, is always incomplete. A small number of religious bodies do not have membership statistics. Further, some religious groups, but not many major ones, are excluded from these totals by virtue of the definitions used for a "religious body" by the various compilers of these data.

Secondly, the totals here reported are additions of both current and non-current data which is made necessary because not all religious bodies gather and report statistics each year yet all bodies in the total must be aggregated each year for sake of completeness.

Thirdly, definitions of inclusive membership vary from one religious body to another. Some count only full members and exclude probationary members, children, and those nominally related while other religious bodies include this wider grouping. Occasionally an individual body will go from the more restrictive to the more inclusive definition over time. A third category of religious bodies has no actual statistical records and only make estimates of inclusive membership which roughly parallel the ethnic and cultural community to which they relate.

Lastly, these compilations were made by three different organizations from data derived from the religious bodies themselves; the U.S. Bureau of the Census made five compilations, *The Christian Herald* made twelve, and the **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches** (formerly Yearbook of American Churches), made thirty-four. Criteria for defining inclusive membership has not been completely standard over the 89-year period of these compilations.

2. CHURCH FINANCIAL STATISTICS AND RELATED DATA, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

For this edition of the **Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches,** complete financial data were supplied by 44 United States communions. The results are presented in the table entitled "Some Statistics of Church Finances—United States Churches." The data are complete for each communion in the three major categories of reporting. It will be noted that Total Contributions are the sum total of Total Congregational Finances and Total Benevolences.

Similarly, data were supplied by 25 Canadian church bodies. The information is included in the table "Some Statistics of Church Finances—Canadian Churches." Both the U.S. and Canadian data are current, and incomplete information submitted by denominations has been excluded from the tables.

A third table, "Summary Statistics of Church Finances," provides totals for the U.S. and Canadian bodies. The 44 U.S. bodies report total contributions of $8,082,823,128 and the 25 Canadian groups $385,667,192 (Canadian). It must be remembered however, that many of the Canadian groups are not wholly Canadian denominations but, rather, sections of denominations existing and headquartered in the U.S. Only 8 of the 25 bodies listed in the table "Some Statistics of Church Finances—Canadian Churches" are strictly Canadian denominations. Per capita contributions for full membership of U.S. communions amounted to $197.44 and for the Canadian bodies, $200.80 (Canadian). Benevolences as a percentage of total contributions amounted to 20.0 percent for the U.S. bodies and 25.1 percent for the Canadian.

Readers of the tables should be aware of the fact that the Canadian and U.S. financial data appearing in this section are only a significant part of total contributions from members of all communions. Not all bodies in the U.S. and Canada gather church financial data centrally, and some have information but do not reveal it publicly. Additionally, little is known about other major segments of church financial income such as earned income, interest from investments, and bequests.

Comparisons between this year's aggregate financial data and those in previous editions of the **Yearbook** should not be made, since the same bodies do not report financial data each year. However, for an individual denomination, or groups of denominations, reporting annually over time, comparisons can be made.

Comparative data for ten major Protestant denominations in the U.S. among the 44 listed in this section show a total 1979 membership of 24,639,270 or 254,147 less than the same churches' total for 1978. Yet these fewer members increased total giving in the ten denominations by 8.8 percent. When this is compared with an 13.3 percent rate of inflation in the U.S. in 1979, the total effect is decreased real income for these denominations. For Canada, comparative statistics for nine communions indicate a decrease in membership from 1978 to 1979 of 4,733 to a total of 1,259,780 and an increase in giving of $28,709,253 (Canadian) to a total of $269,539,995 (Canadian). Assuming an inflation rate in Canada of 9.5 percent for 1979, the total contributions of these ten communions show a real increase, after inflation, of $5,831,933 (Canadian).

The other statistical charts and tables as well as the textual and bibliographical materials in the section present useful background information for interpreting church finances. The data are completely new and come from both Canadian and U.S. sources.

TABLE 1-D: CANADIAN CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS

The following table provides current and non-current statistics for Canadian denominations listed alphabetically. Current statistics, defined as those gathered and reported for 1980 and 1979 are shown in **bold face** type. Non-current statistics are those for 1978 and earlier, and appear in light face.

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
The Anglican Church of Canada	**1979**	**3,212**	**952,489**	**594,296**	**1,661**	**2,802**	**1,538**	**105,594**
The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America	1972	4	25,000		4	4		
Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarean)	**1979**	**13**	**728**	**728**	**N.R.**	**44**	**12**	**534**
Apostolic Church of Pentecost of Canada	**1980**	**120**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**203**	**220**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Armenian Church of North America, Diocese of Canada	**1979**	**7**	**25,000**	**1,500**	**3**	**3**	**5**	**70**
Associated Gospel Churches	1977	102	11,558		76	174		
Baptist Federation of Canada	**1980**	**1,116**	**127,700**	**115,789**	**608**	**1,062**	**899**	**63,059**
Baptist General Conference	1978	69	5,288		69	87		
Bible Holiness Movement	**1980**	**23**	**414**	**231**	**11**	**11**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Brethren in Christ Church, Canadian Conference	**1979**	**30**	**2,729**	**2,173**	**29**	**38**	**31**	**2,207**
British Methodist Episcopal Church	1978	13	2,000		9	9		
Buddhist Churches of Canada	**1979**	**15**	**2,543**	**2,543**	**10**	**10**	**15**	**275**
Canadian Baptist Conference	1977	35	2,858		29	37		
Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends	**1979**	**23**	**1,095**	**1,095**	**None**	**None**	**14**	**135**
The Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada	**1979**	**236**	**36,375**	**17,280**	**110**	**255**	**215**	**31,444**
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	**1979**	**38**	**4,686**	**2,613**	**27**	**47**	**38**	**1,167**
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	**1980**	**66**	**4,713**	**4,713**	**62**	**99**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Christian Congregation	**1979**	**26**	**2,676**	**2,676**	**26**	**26**	**26**	**1,768**
Christian Reformed Church in North America	**1979**	**196**	**79,669**	**41,487**	**184**	**190**	**N.R.**	**18,412**
Church of God (Anderson, Ind.)	**1979**	**49**	**2,623**	**2,623**	**32**	**45**	**47**	**3,398**
Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)	**1979**	**58**	**2,314**	**2,314**	**102**	**108**	**61**	**2,307**
The Church of God of Prophecy of Canada	**1980**	**26**	**1,431**	**1,431**	**25**	**26**	**32**	**2,586**
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Canada	**1979**	**326**	**80,000**	**65,000**	**1,869**	**1,992**	**326**	**75,000**
Church of the Foursquare Gospel of Canada	**1979**	**30**	**2,252**	**2,252**	**67**	**85**	**25**	**1,878**
Church of the Lutheran Brethren of America	**1979**	**10**	**545**	**272**	**7**	**11**	**10**	**527**
Church of the Nazarene	**1979**	**141**	**8,864**	**8,814**	**N.R.**	**196**	**137**	**18,456**
Churches of Christ	**1979**	**150**	**12,700**	**10,000**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**135**	**7,500**
Conference of Mennonites in Canada	**1979**	**137**	**25,873**	**25,873**	**340**	**460**	**137**	**17,721**
The Coptic Church in Canada	1977	5	2,200		5	6		
The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church	**1979**	**13**	**8,546**	**8,546**	**9**	**14**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada, The Fellowship of	**1979**	**400**	**47,000**	**47,000**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**

TABLE 1-D: CANADIAN CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
The Evangelical Church in Canada	**1979**	**45**	**3,698**	**3,698**	**46**	**82**	**44**	**4,204**
The Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada	**1979**	**23**	**1,113**	**1,113**	**16**	**23**	**20**	**1,666**
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada	**1979**	**321**	**83,058**	**56,974**	**198**	**288**	**244**	**15,681**
Evangelical Mennonite Conference	**1979**	**47**	**4,833**	**4,833**	**80**	**113**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Conference	1977	17	1,924		16	20		
Evangelical Mennonite Mission Conference	**1979**	**27**	**2,370**	**2,370**	**43**	**48**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Free Methodist Church in Canada	1978	125	5,951		97	191		
General Church of the New Jerusalem in Canada	**1979**	**5**	**704**	**553**	**6**	**7**	**3**	**76**
The Gospel Missionary Association	**1980**	**14**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**	**12**	**49**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Greek Orthodox Diocese of Toronto	1977	41	220,000		41	41		
Independent Assemblies of God—Canada	1977	45	4,500		125	165		
Independent Holiness Church	1971	12	N.R.		12	13		
The Italian Pentecostal Church of Canada	1976	16	2,755		12	12		
Jehovah's Witnesses	**1979**	**1,041**	**63,995**	**63,995**	**None**	**None**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Jews	1977	112	305,000		N.R.	N.R.		
The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	**1979**	**14**	**2,947**	**2,626**	**11**	**15**	**5**	**135**
Lutheran Church—Canada	**1979**	**354**	**94,815**	**68,826**	**194**	**286**	**277**	**19,296**
Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section	**1979**	**327**	**121,346**	**88,821**	**209**	**356**	**291**	**20,336**
Mennonite Brethren Churches of North America, Canadian Conference of the	**1979**	**137**	**21,428**	**21,428**	**139**	**139**	**137**	**19,484**
Mennonite Church (Canada)	**1979**	**115**	**9,905**	**9,905**	**205**	**270**	**91**	**11,558**
The Missionary Church—Canada	1972	75	4,468		51	130		
Moravian Church in America—Northern Province, Canadian District of the	**1979**	**9**	**1,687**	**1,190**	**7**	**10**	**8**	**623**
North American Baptist Conference	**1979**	**103**	**15,066**	**15,066**	**91**	**131**	**98**	**11,523**
Old Order Amish Church	**1979**	**14**	**750**	**750**	**54**	**54**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada	**1979**	**949**	**225,000**	**125,000**	**N.R.**	**1,054**	**609**	**135,000**
Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland	1978	152	30,000		N.R.	165		
Plymouth Brethren (Also known as Christian Brethren)	**1980**	**450**	**41,000**	**41,000**	**N.R.**	**210**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
Polish National Catholic Church	1977	11	6,000		11	12		
The Presbyterian Church in Canada	**1979**	**1,053**	**166,190**	**166,190**	**N.R.**	**993**	**N.R.**	**47,395**
Primitive Baptist Convention of New Brunswick	1977	15	1,050		8	9		
Reformed Church in America—Ontario Classis	**1979**	**19**	**5,551**	**2,798**	**18**	**24**	**19**	**1,248**
Reformed Doukhobors, Christian Community and Brotherhood of	**1979**	**1**	**2,500**	**2,500**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**203**
Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod	1976	6	271		6	6		
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	**1979**	**95**	**10,429**	**10,429**	**109**	**1,010**	**95**	**4,950**

TABLE 1-D: CANADIAN CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS—Continued

Religious Body	Year Reported	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
Rhineland Mennonite Church	**1980**	**7**	**700**	**700**	**12**	**12**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Roman Catholic Church in Canada	**1979**	**5,836**	**9,991,243**	**N.R.**	**7,734**	**13,050**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Romanian Orthodox Church in America (Canadian Parishes)	1972	19	16,000		19	19		
The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America (Jackson, Mich.)	**1979**	**13**	**8,000**	**8,000**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**535**
Russian Orthodox Church in Canada (Patriarchal Parishes)	**1979**	**24**	**4,500**	**4,500**	**6**	**6**	**3**	**66**
Serbian Orthodox Church in America and Canada, Diocese of Eastern America and Canada	1978	8	10,036		10	10		
Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Canada	**1979**	**253**	**30,222**	**30,222**	**120**	**240**	**305**	**23,846**
Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church of Canada	1970	118	140,000		N.R.	75		
Union of Spiritual Communities of Christ (Orthodox Doukhbors in Canada)	1972	25	21,300		None	None		
Unitarian Universalist Association	**1980**	**19**	**4,603**	**4,603**	**13**	**13**	**N.R.**	**878**
United Brethren in Christ, Ontario Conference	1978	11	841		9	14		
The United Church of Canada	**1979**	**4,271**	**2,081,901**	**907,222**	**1,964**	**3,664**	**3,542**	**236,414**
United Pentecostal Church International	**1980**	**136**	**22,000**	**14,000**	**160**	**160**	**N.R.**	**N.R.**
The Wesleyan Church	**1979**	**74**	**4,834**	**4,292**	**72**	**112**	**74**	**12,886**
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod	**1979**	**7**	**948**	**731**	**6**	**6**	**7**	**180**

TABLE 1-E: SUMMARY OF CANADIAN CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT STATISTICS

Current statistics are those reported for the year 1980 or 1979. Non-current statistics are those for the years 1978 and earlier. Only current totals are provided in the categories: Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members; Number of Sunday or Sabbath Schools; Total Enrollment.

	No. of Bodies	No. of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Full, Communicant or Confirmed Members	No. of Pastors Serving Parishes	Total No. of Clergy	No. of Sunday or Sabbath Schools	Total Enrollment
1981 **Yearbook**								
Current	57	22,264	14,460,301	2,627,584	16,919	30,179	9,586	922,221
Non-Current	23	1,036	819,000	N.R.	609	1,199	N.R.	N.R.
Totals	80	23,300	15,279,301		17,528	31,378		
1980 **Yearbook**								
Current	52	20,119	14,299,474	2,355,115	16,470	28,058	11,530*	846,307
Non-Current	26	2,506	1,009,007	N.R.	1,695	2,472	N.R.	N.R.
Totals	78	22,625	15,308,481		18,165	30,530		

*Adjusted downward from 1980 edition to compensate for an error in reporting by one religious body.

TABLE 1-G: CONSTITUENCY OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.

A separate tabulation has been made of the constituent bodies of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and is given below:

Religious Body	Year	Number of Churches	Inclusive Membership	Pastors Serving Parishes
African Methodist Episcopal Church	1979	3,050	1,970,000	3,560
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	1979	6,020	1,125,176	6,556
American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.	1978	5,897	1,271,688	4,330
The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America	1977	110	152,000	120
Armenian Church of America, Diocese of the (including Diocese of California)	1979	66	450,000	45
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	1979	4,324	1,213,061	3,988
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church	1965	2,598	466,718	2,214
Church of the Brethren	1979	1,061	172,115	N.R.
Community Churches, National Council of	1979	185	190,000	210
Coptic Orthodox Church	1980	25	100,000	22
The Episcopal Church	1979	7,022	2,841,350	7,357
Friends United Meeting	1979	530	61,366	371
General Convention, the Swedenborgian Church	1977	47	2,640	48
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America	1977	535	1,950,000	610
Hungarian Reformed Church in America	1978	29	10,500	24
Lutheran Church in America	1979	5,788	2,921,090	4,978
Moravian Church in America				
Northern Province	1979	95	32,588	85
Southern Province	1979	53	21,058	54
National Baptist Convention of America	1956	11,398	2,668,799	7,598
National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.	1958	26,000	5,500,000	26,000
Orthodox Church in America	1978	440	1,000,000	457
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends	1967	202	(1965) 16,965	(1965) 23
Polish National Catholic Church of America	1960	162	282,411	151
The Presbyterian Church in the United States	1979	4,067	852,711	3,114
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.	1967	655	521,692	N.R.
Reformed Church in America	1979	904	348,417	838
Russian Orthodox Church in the U.S.A., Patriarchal Parishes of the	1975	41	51,500	55
Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church for the U.S.A. and Canada	1967	52	65,000	56
Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch (Archdiocese of the U.S.A. and Canada)	1978	13	30,000	14
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America (Ecumenical Patriarchate)	1977	28	25,000	32
United Church of Christ	1979	6,467	1,745,533	5,195
The United Methodist Church	1979	38,576	9,653,711	20,178
The United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America	1979	8,633	2,477,364	7,525
Total (32) bodies		135,073	40,190,453	105,808

SOME STATISTICS OF CHURCH FINANCES

COMMUNION	Year	Full or* Confirmed Membership	Inclusive** Membership	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS Total Contributions	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership
American Baptist Churches in the U S A	1978	1,271,688(a)	1,271,688(a)	$ 216,654,034	$170 37	$170 37
The American Lutheran Church	1979	1,768,071	2,362,685	347,923,811	196 78	147 25
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, General Synod	1979	28,513	31,984	8,013,395	281 04	250 55
Baptist General Conference	1979	126,800	126,800	53,129,573	419 00	419 00
Brethren in Christ Church	1979	12,923	15,283	6,831,083	528 60	446 97
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	1979	773,765	1,213,061	199,606,418	257 97	164 54
The Christian Union, The General Council of	1979	5,463	5,463	1,531,319	280 31	280 31
Church of God (Anderson, Indiana)	1979	175,113	175,113	78,409,138	447 76	447 76
Church of God General Conference (Oregon, IL)	1979	7,620	7,620	1,275,000	167 32	167 32
Church of the Brethren	1979	172,115	172,115	38,583,950	224 18	224 18
Church of the Lutheran Confession	1979	9,340	9,340	1,879,037	201 18	201 18
Church of the Nazarene	1979	473,726	474,820	197,548,963	417 01	416 05
Churches of God, General Conference	1979	34,874	34,874	11,137,379	319 36	319 36
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference	1979	23,751	23,751	6,903,957	290 68	290 68
Cumberland Presbyterian Church	1979	89,218	94,574	16,419,370	184 03	173 62
The Episcopal Church	1979	1,962,062	2,841,350	484,211,412	246 79	170 41
Evangelical Church of North America	1979	12,581	12,581	5,649,376	449 04	449 04
Evangelical Congregational Church	1980	27,995	27,995	7,561,544	270 10	270 10
The Evangelical Covenant Church of America	1979	76,092	76,092	39,387,358	517 63	517 63
Evangelical Lutheran Synod	1979	15,081	20,044	3,619,865	240 03	180 59
Evangelical Mennonite Brethren Conference	1978	3,956	3,956	1,716,019	433 78	433 78
Evangelical Mennonite Church	1979	3,704	3,704	2,209,070	596 40	596 40
Friends United Meeting	1979	51,426	61,366	8,793,895	171 00	143 30
General Baptists, General Association of	1979	73,046	73,046	14,350,108	196 45	196 45
Independent Fundamental Churches of America	1980	120,446	120,446	88,159,300	731 94	731 94
The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	1979	12,392	14,294	1,160,725	93 67	81 21
Lutheran Church in America	1979	2,177,231	2,921,090	372,930,479	171 29	127 67
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod	1979	1,965,422	2,623,181	424,520,331	215 99	161 84
Mennonite Brethren Churches, General Conference of	1979	16,165	16,165	6,596,175	408 05	408 05
Mennonite Church	1979	98,027	98,027	39,622,108	404 20	404 20
Moravian Church in America, Northern Province	1979	24,782	31,834	5,289,401	213 44	166 16
Moravian Church in America, Southern Province	1979	17,186	21,058	3,531,674	205 50	167 71
North American Baptist Conference	1979	42,779	42,779	16,979,363	396 91	396 91
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church	1979	11,300	16,265	5,830,493	515 97	358 47
Presbyterian Church in America	1979	77,102	86,885	38,254,466	496 15	440 29
Presbyterian Church in the United States	1979	852,711	852,711	268,443,004	314 81	314 81
Primitive Methodist Church, U S A	1979	6,974	10,126	2,719,897	390 00	268 60
Reformed Church in America	1979	211,591	348,417	80,267,548	379 35	230 38
Seventh-day Adventists	1979	553,089	553,089	374,648,278	677 37	677 37
Southern Baptist Convention	1979	13,372,757	13,372,757	2,220,099,638	166 01	166 01
United Church of Christ	1979	1,745,533	1,745,533	290,543,615	166 45	166 45
The United Methodist Church	1978	9,653,711	9,653,711	1,364,460,266	141 34	141 34
The United Presbyterian Church in the U S A	1979	2,469,076	2,477,364	656,135,236	265 74	264 85
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod	1979	306,264	404,564	69,213,675	225 99	171 08

* Full or Confirmed Membership refers to those with full communicant or confirmed status

** Inclusive Membership refers to those who are full communicant or confirmed members, plus other members listed as baptized, nonconfirmed, or noncommunicant

a American Baptist Churches membership statistics are about 80% of total due to nonreporting churches. Total contributions represent 100% reporting. This raises the per capita giving above what it would be if total membership were reported.

—UNITED STATES CHURCHES

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES			BENEVOLENCES			
Total Congregational Contributions	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership	Total Benevolences	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership	Benevolences As a Percentage of Total Contributions
$ 184,716,172	$145 25	$145 25	$ 31,937,862	$ 25 12	$ 25 12	14 7%
284,019,905	160 63	120 21	63,903,906	36 14	27 04	18 4
6,155,196	215 87	192 45	1,858,199	65 17	58 10	23 2
44,417,318	350 29	350 29	8,712,255	68 71	68 71	16 4
5,519,037	427 07	361 12	1,312,046	101 53	85 85	19 2
172,270,978	222 64	142 01	27,335,440	35 33	22 53	13 7
1,301,717	238 28	238 28	229,602	42 03	42 03	15 0
65,974,517	376 75	376 75	12,434,621	71 01	71 01	15 9
1,170,000	153 54	153 54	105,000	13 78	13 78	08 2
28,422,684	165 14	165 14	10,161,266	59 04	59 04	26 3
1,477,971	158 24	158 24	401,066	42 94	42 94	21 3
171,324,357	361 65	360 82	26,224,606	55 36	55 23	13 3
8,837,518	253 41	253 41	2,299,861	65 95	65 95	20 6
5,054,699	212 82	212 82	1,849,258	77 86	77 86	26 8
13,905,745	155 86	147 04	2,513,625	28 17	26 58	15 3
410,129,943	209 03	144 34	74,081,469	37 76	26 07	15 3
4,254,800	338 19	338 19	1,394,576	110 85	110 85	24 7
6,043,687	215 88	215 88	1,517,857	54 22	54 22	20 1
29,987,284	394 09	394 09	9,400,074	123 54	123 54	23 9
2,750,703	182 40	137 23	869,162	57 63	43 36	24 0
970,960	245 44	245 44	745,059	188 34	188 34	43 4
1,380,806	372 79	372 79	828,264	223 61	223 61	37 5
6,662,787	129 56	108 57	2,131,108	41 44	34 73	24 2
13,131,345	179 77	179 77	1,218,763	16 68	16 68	08 5
72,362,843	600 79	600 79	15,796,457	131 15	131 15	17 9
916,344	73 95	64 11	244,381	19 72	17 10	21 1
301,605,382	138 53	103 25	71,325,097	32 76	24 42	19 1
360,989,735	183 67	137 62	63,530,596	32 32	24 22	15 0
4,571,488	282 80	282 80	2,024,687	125 25	125 25	30 7
24,505,346	249 99	249 99	15,116,762	154 21	154 21	38 2
4,600,331	185 63	144 51	689,070	27 81	21 65	13 0
2,685,085	156 24	127 51	846,589	49 26	40 20	24 0
13,415,024	313 59	313 59	3,564,339	83 32	83 32	21 0
4,683,302	414 45	287 94	1,147,191	101 52	70 53	19 7
28,118,399	364 69	323 63	10,136,067	131 46	116 66	26 5
215,030,316	252 17	252 17	53,412,688	62 64	62 64	19 9
2,262,091	324 36	223 39	457,806	65 64	45 21	16 8
63,452,848	299 88	182 12	16,814,700	79 47	48 26	20 9
118,711,906	214 63	214 63	255,936,372	462 74	462 74	68 3
1,864,213,869	139 40	139 40	355,885,769	26 61	26 61	16 0
249,443,032	142 90	142 90	41,100,583	23 55	23 55	14 1
1,050,480,562	108 82	108 82	313,979,704	32 52	32 52	23 0
561,018,931	227 22	226 46	95,116,305	38 52	38 39	14 5
54,983,467	179 53	135 91	14,230,208	46 46	35 17	20 6

SOME STATISTICS OF CHURCH FINANCES

COMMUNION	Year	Full or* Confirmed Membership	Inclusive** Membership	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS[a] Total Contributions	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership
The Anglican Church of Canada	1978	581,040	961,952	$79,784,699	$137 32	$ 82 94
Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec	1979	35,041	46,952	14,058,543	401 20	299 42
The Bible Holiness Movement	1980	231	414	40,993	177 46	99 02
Brethren in Christ Church	1979	2,173	2,729	1,455,629	669 87	533 40
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	1979	2,613	4,686	884,317	338 43	188 71
Church of the Foursquare Gospel of Western Canada	1979	2,252	2,252	1,369,143	607 97	607 97
Church of the Nazarene	1979	8,814	8,864	4,342,442	492 68	489 90
Evangelical Church in Canada	1979	3,698	3,698	1,696,535	458 77	458 77
The Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada	1979	1,113	1,113	963,108	865 33	865 33
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada	1979	58,974	83,058	10,128,495	171 74	121 94
The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	1979	2,626	2,947	202,421	77 08	68 69
Lutheran Church—Canada	1979	68,826	94,815	12,432,694	180 64	131 13
Lutheran Church in America—Canada Section	1979	88,821	121,346	15,122,541	170 26	124 63
Mennonite Brethren Churches, The Canadian Conference of	1979	21,428	21,428	14,098,881	657 97	657 97
Mennonite Church (Canada)	1979	9,905	9,905	3,872,271	390 94	390 94
Mennonites in Canada, Conference of	1979	25,873	25,873	9,303,457	359 59	359 59
Moravian Church in America, Northern Province, Canadian District of the	1979	1,190	1,687	756,732	635 91	448 57
North American Baptist Conference	1979	15,066	15,066	9,637,920	639 71	639 71
The Presbyterian Church in Canada	1979	166,190	166,190	36,903,684	222 05	222 05
Reformed Church in America—Ontario Classis	1979	2,798	5,551	1,163,483	415 83	209 60
Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada	1979	30,222	30,222	24,509,206	810 97	810 97
Union D'Églises Baptistes Françaises au Canada	1979	689	689	418,169	606 92	606 92
United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces	1979	61,039	61,039	14,649,256	240 00	240 00
The United Church of Canada	1979	729,239	2,081,901	127,636,695	175 03	61 31
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod	1979	731	948	235,878	322 68	248 82

* Full or Confirmed Membership refers to those with full, communicant, or confirmed status

** Inclusive Membership refers to those who are full, communicant, or confirmed members, plus other members baptized, nonconfirmed, or noncommunicant

[a] Although most denominations reported Canadian dollars for this table, certain denominations reported U S dollars In order to standardize these amounts, U S dollars were multiplied by 1 1643, a factor which represents the average differential in exchange rates over the four quarters of 1979 Thus the totals are all expressed in Canadian dollar amounts

SUMMARY STATISTICS

	Total Bodies	Full or* Confirmed Membership	Inclusive** Membership	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS Total Contributions	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership
United States Communions	44	40,934,562	44,550,678	$8,082,823,128	$197 44	$181 42
Canadian Communions[a]	25	1,920,596	3,755,325	385,667,192	200 80	102 70

*Full or Confirmed Membership refers to those with full, communicant, or confirmed status

**Inclusive Membership refers to those who are full, communicant, or confirmed members, plus other members listed as baptized, nonconfirmed, or noncommunicant

[a]Shown in Canadian dollars

—CANADIAN CHURCHES

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES			BENEVOLENCES			
Total Congregational Contributions	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership	Total Benevolences	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership	Benevolences As a Percentage of Total Contributions
$ 62,651,062	$107 83	$ 65 13	$ 17,133,637	$ 29 49	$ 17 81	21 5%
11,700,155	333 89	249 19	2,358,388	67 30	50 22	16 8
11,611	50 26	28 05	29,382	127 20	70 97	71 7
1,326,938	610 65	486 24	128,691	59 22	47 16	8 8
757,031	289 72	161 55	127,286	48 71	27 16	14 4
1,283,542	569 96	569 96	85,601	38 01	38 01	6 3
3,765,267	427 19	424 78	577,175	65 48	65 12	13 3
1,203,586	325 47	325 47	492,949	133 30	133 30	29 1
728,257	654 32	654 32	234,851	211 01	211 01	24 4
8,523,674	144 53	102 62	1,604,821	27 21	19 32	15 8
151,505	57 69	51 41	50,916	19 39	17 28	25 2
9,611,046	139 64	101 37	2,821,648	41 00	29 76	22 7
12,357,452	139 13	101 84	2,765,089	31 13	22 79	18 3
7,872,567	367 40	367 40	6,226,314	290 57	290 57	44 2
2,346,614	236 91	236 91	1,525,657	154 03	154 03	39 4
4,666,596	180 37	180 37	4,636,861	179 22	179 22	49 8
669,502	562 61	396 86	87,230	73 30	51 71	11 5
6,626,063	439 80	439 80	3,011,857	199 91	199 91	31 3
31,288,740	188 27	188 27	5,614,944	33 78	33 78	15 2
855,793	305 86	154 17	307,690	109 97	55 43	26 4
6,476,356	214 29	214 29	18,032,850	596 68	596 68	73 6
195,940	284 38	284 38	222,229	322 54	322 54	53 1
12,899,793	211 34	211 34	1,749,463	28 66	28 66	11 9
100,845,989	138 29	48 44	26,790,706	36 74	12 87	21 1
185,908	254 32	196 11	49,970	68 36	52 71	21 2

OF CHURCH FINANCES

CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES			BENEVOLENCES			
Total Congregational Contributions	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership	Total Benevolences	Per Capita Full or Confirmed Membership	Per Capita Inclusive Membership	Benevolences As a Percentage of Total Contributions
$6,468,039,433	$158 00	$145 18	$1,614,783,695	$39 44	$36 24	20 0%
289,000,987	150 47	76 96	96,666,205	50 33	25 74	25 1

TOTAL GIVING IN 1979, CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS (In Billions)

Contributions		Percent of Total
Individuals	$36.54	84.4%
Bequests	2.23	5.1
Foundations	2.30	5.3
Corporations	2.24	5.2

Distributions		Percent of Total
Religion	$20.14	46.5%
Education	5.99	13.8
Health and Hospitals	5.95	13.7
Social Welfare	4.35	10.0
Arts & Humanities	2.70	6.2
Civic & Public	1.24	2.9
Other	2.94	6.9

Total giving in 1979 is estimated at $43.31 billion, an increase of 9.3% over the $39.63 billion contributed in 1978, according to *Giving USA: 1980 Annual Report*, published by the American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel, New York.

"Religion" as a category received an estimated $20.14 billion in 1979, or 46.5% of total giving and increased 9.2% between 1978 and 1979.

The largest amount of contributions came from living donors, a total of $36.54 billion, or 84.4% of the total.

The overall increase in giving of 9.3% in 1979 was outstripped by an inflation rate of 13.3% for the same year.

CANADIAN PER TAXPAYER CHARITABLE DONATIONS, IN DOLLARS, AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INCOME ASSESSED, FOR CANADA AND EACH PROVINCE, 1977.

	Donations in Dollars	Donations as % of Income Assessed
CANADA	$ 68.58	0.47%
Newfoundland	54.06	0.48
Prince Edward Island	68.89	0.67
Nova Scotia	60.05	0.51
New Brunswick	76.21	0.68
Quebec	30.07	0.21
Ontario	82.53	0.55
Manitoba	100.17	0.72
Saskatchewan	107.08	0.74
Alberta	91.27	0.59
British Columbia	70.81	0.45
Yukon	28.01	0.19
North-West Territories	50.74	0.36

SOURCE: Taxation Statistics, 1979 Edition, Department of Revenue Canada Taxation, Ottawa.

AVERAGE CONTRIBUTIONS BY HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND TO VARIOUS CHARITY RECIPIENTS FOR ITEMIZERS AND NON-ITEMIZERS OF INCOME TAXES, 1979

Average Contributions

Household Income	Itemizers	Nonitemizers	Ratio
Under $5,000	$ 203	$112	1.8
$5,000-9,999	300	165	1.8
$10,000-14,999	324	249	1.3
$15,000-19,999	652	222	2.9
$20,000-49,999	658	281	2.3
$50,000 and over	1,253	227	5.5
Total	$ 652	$210	3.1

Average Contributions

	Itemizers	Nonitemizers	Non-Filers
Religious Organizations	$435	$139	$ 93
Education	67	19	17
Hospitals	27	12	1
Health and Welfare	60	28	12
Other Organizations	42	16	23
Total	$652	$210	$141

At whatever income bracket, itemizers of income tax returns give substantially more to charity each year than non-itemizers; more than three times as much overall. The average contribution to religious organizations of itemizers was $435 while that of non-itemizers was $139. For non-filers it was $93, according to the Gallup CONVO Poll.

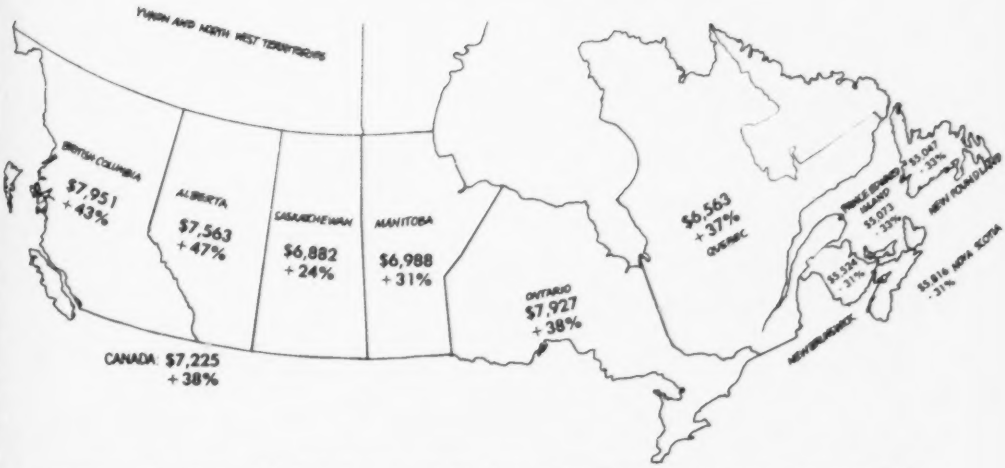
The American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel comments: "Since income tax rates increase with income, these data give considerable support to the belief that tax incentives are an important factor when determining level of giving."

RECIPIENTS OF GIVING, 1955-1979
(In Billions of Dollars)

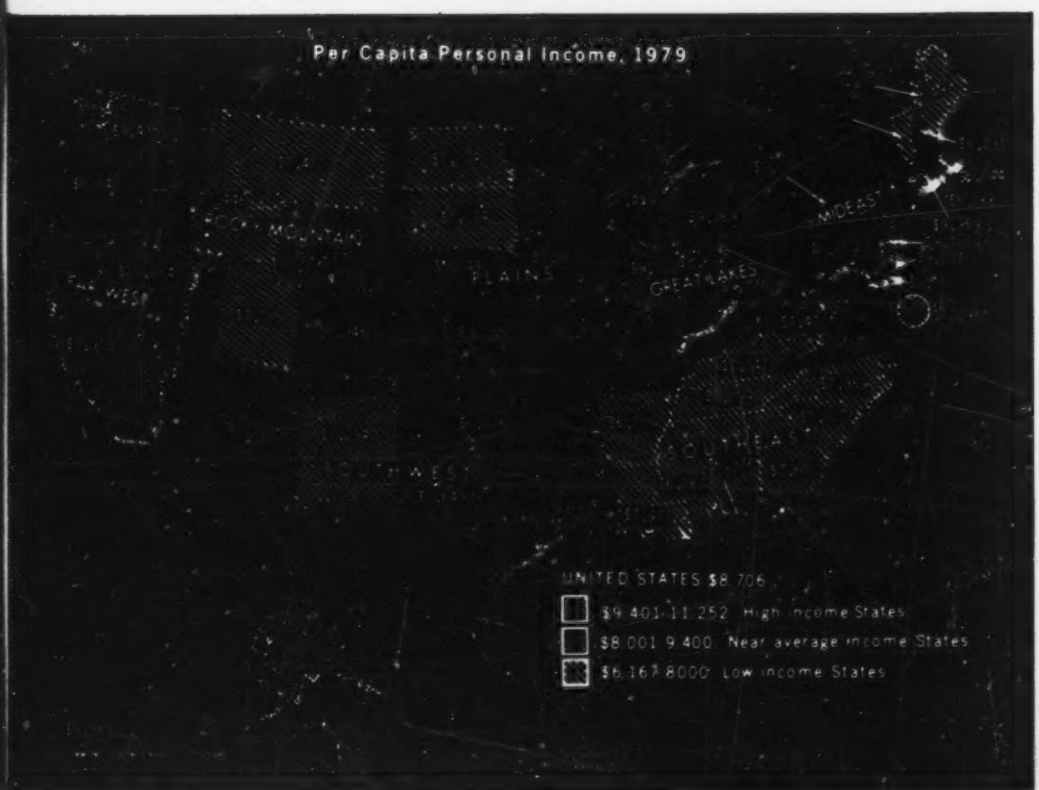
	Religion	Education	Social Welfare	Health & Hospitals	Arts & Humanities	Civic & Public	Other
1955	$ 3.33	$ .733	$1.53	$ .596	$ .199	$ .075	$ .197
1956	3.75	.637	1.42	.920	.142	.070	.142
1957	4.02	.868	1.50	1.01	.159	.079	.254
1958	4.15	.977	1.47	1.14	.163	.082	.160
1959	4.56	1.34	1.43	1.15	.197	.090	.183
1960	4.79	1.50	1.41	1.13	.188	.094	.282
1961	5.01	1.57	1.47	1.18	.195	.098	.297
1962	5.25	1.68	1.57	1.36	.210	.112	.298
1963	5.58	1.93	1.71	1.48	.225	.114	.341
1964	5.91	2.05	1.69	1.45	.205	.157	.598
1965	6.51	2.26	1.86	1.46	.226	.173	.797
1966	7.06	2.35	1.91	2.07	.376	.230	.701
1967	7.40	2.45	1.89	2.82	.379	.231	.610
1968	8.22	2.93	2.11	3.02	.404	.228	.648
1969	8.85	3.17	2.54	3.23	.548	.391	.842
1970	9.30	3.24	2.88	3.40	.623	.415	.892
1971	9.98	3.56	2.92	3.65	.916	.594	1.22
1972	10.02	3.66	2.99	3.77	.930	.650	1.28
1973	10.52	4.10	3.06	4.15	1.25	.610	1.91
1974	11.94	4.14	3.12	4.29	1.30	.770	2.15
1975	12.91	3.95	3.14	4.42	1.72	.890	2.65
1976	14.22	4.49	3.16	4.85	2.31	1.07	2.44
1977	16.93	4.75	3.52	4.90	2.27	1.17	2.48
1978	18.45	5.56	3.97	5.48	2.50	1.18	2.54
1979	20.14	5.99	4.35	5.95	2.70	1.20	2.94

Source: *Giving USA: 1980 Annual Report*, New York, American Association of Fund-Raising Counsel, pages 12 and 23.

CANADIAN PER CAPITA PERSONAL DISPOSABLE INCOME IN DOLLARS, 1979,WITH PERCENTAGE CHANGE, 1976-1979, BY PROVINCES



Source: *The Financial Post Survey of Markets 1980.* Toronto: Maclean-Hunter Ltd.



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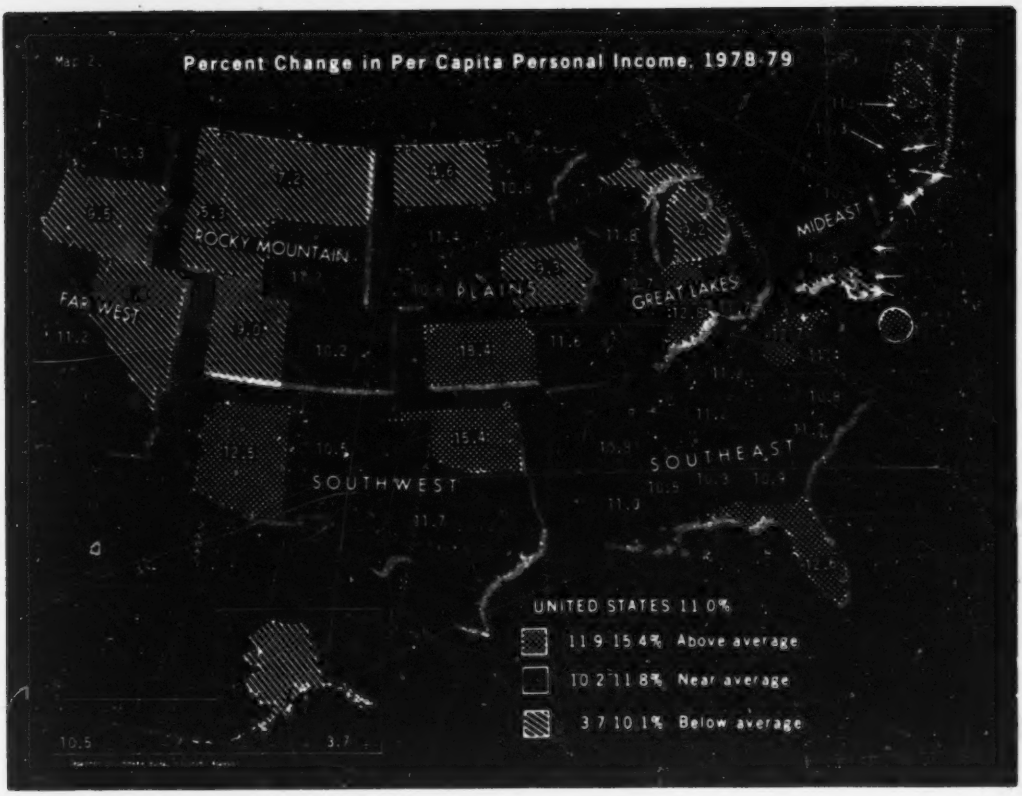

FAMILIES AND UNRELATED INDIVIDUALS BY TOTAL MONEY INCOME IN 1978

(Families and unrelated individuals as of March, 1979)

Total money income	Families		Unrelated Individuals	
	Number (thousands)	Percent distribution	Number (thousands)	Percent distribution
Total	57,804	100.0	24,585	100.0
Under $2,000-4,999	4,719	8.2	9,489	38.6
$5,000-8,999	7,295	12.6	5,862	23.9
$9,000-13,999	9,699	16.7	4,605	18.7
$14,000-17,999	7,892	13.6	2,078	8.5
$18,000-24,999	12,085	20.9	1,617	6.6
$25,000 and over	16,115	27.9	935	3.8
Median Income	$17,640		$6,705	
Mean Income	$20,091		$8,919	

Source: Adapted from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, No. 120, "Money Income and Poverty Status of Families and Persons in the United States: 1978" (Advance Report), U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1979.

"Median family income in 1978 ($17,640) was 6 percent higher than the 1970 level ($16,570) after adjusting for inflation. This represents an average annual increase since 1970 of 0.8 percent, which was much less than the average annual increase experienced between 1960 and 1970 (3.0 percent)."

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PRETAX INCOME IN 1980 NECESSARY TO EQUAL 1970 PURCHASING POWER

1970 Pretax Income	$5,000	$10,000	$15,000	$25,000	$50,000
Less: Federal Income Tax	238	986	1,854	3,987	11,982
Less: Social Security Tax	240	374	374	374	374
Equals: Income After Federal Taxes	4,522	8,640	12,772	20,639	37,694
1980 Necessary Pretax Income	$9,660	$20,187	$30,772	$52,495	$106,785
Less: Federal Income Tax	286	2,171	4,331	10,826	32,092
Less: Social Security Tax	592	1,237	1,588	1,588	1,588
Less: Amount to Cover Inflation Since 1970	4,260	8,139	12,031	19,442	35,461
Equals: Income After Federal Taxes in 1970 Dollars	4,522	8,640	12,772	20,639	37,644

Source: *Economic Road Maps*, Nos. 1876-1877, April, 1980, New York, The Conference Board, 1980.

"Federal income and social security taxes are computed for a married couple, only one of whom works, with two children. No allowance is made for any other taxes."

The above data indicate, among other things, that to obtain an income after federal taxes of $20,639 (in 1970 dollars) in 1980, pretax income of $52,495 would be necessary, whereas in 1970 it took only $25,000. The amount to cover inflation alone since 1970 amounts to $19,442.

UNITED STATES PERSONAL CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF EXPENDITURES, 1975 and 1978 (In Billions of Dollars)

	1975	1978	% Increase
Food and Tobacco[1]	$224.2	$289.6	29.2%
Clothing, Accessories and Jewelry	82.0	107.6	31.2
Personal Care	14.2	18.6	31.0
Housing	150.1	212.2	41.4
Household Operation	142.3	195.0	37.0
Medical Care Expenses	89.2	131.0	46.9
Personal Business	51.6	71.1	37.8
Transportation	125.5	191.3	52.4
Recreation	66.5	91.2	37.1
Private Education and Research	15.5	20.8	34.2
Religious and Welfare Activities	13.0	17.2	32.3
Foreign Travel and Other, Net	5.0	5.2	4.0
Total	979.1	1,350.8	38.0

[1]Expenditures for Alcoholic Beverages, included in this total, amounted to $24.9 billion in 1975 and $30.9 billion in 1978, an increase of 24.1%. Tobacco Product expenditures over the four-year period 1975-1978 rose from $14.7 billion to $17.9 billion, an increase of 21.8%.

Source: Adapted from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, July, 1979, Table 2.6—Personal Consumption Expenditures by Type of Expenditures, p. 37.

EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON PER CAPITA GIVING 1961-1979

Constant H. Jacquet, Jr.
Office of Research, Evaluation and Planning
National Council of Churches

Somewhere between 38 and 52 religious bodies have been able to supply annually complete financial data on total contributions received. Total contributions are the sum of all benevolences plus all congregational finances. Representing roughly 20 percent of the total number of U.S. denominations and 30 percent of total U.S. membership reported to the *Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches*, giving to these bodies is approximately 40 percent of total church contributions in the U.S. in any given year.

At least four reasons why more denominations do not supply statistical data on church finances are: 1) the desire to keep the information confidential, 2) a belief that there are biblical restrictions against this type of accounting, 3) a lack of adequate statistical programs in denominations to report accurate membership and financial data, and 4) denominational polities that do not require full reporting to a central office.

The fragmentary information currently received, however, provides a good "sample" that helps to determine what is happening in the area of U.S. church contributions. It should be remembered that these are aggregate data and the experiences of individual denominations may vary from what is presented here.

Organized religion, like other privately financed agencies, is on the whole, struggling with powerful forces of inflation in the U.S. Although the dollar amounts of giving have increased from $69.00 per capita full member in 1961 to $197.44 in 1979, an increase of 186 percent, in constant 1967 dollars the increase is only from $77.01 in 1961 to $90.82 in 1979, an increase in real terms of only 18 percent. Therefore, much education and action in the area of stewardship has been necessary to defend the financial structure of organized religion.

Though it is generally known that benevolences average roughly 20 percent of contributions from year to year, there is some evidence available, at least for certain large mainline Protestant bodies, that the pattern of distribution of benevolence money has shifted somewhat to local and regional agencies and away from national agencies. This trend is having a considerable effect on the structures and staffing of national denominational agencies in some communions. For more details on this trend, see "Common Winds of Change: Trends in Church Finances," appearing on page 14.

DENOMINATIONAL PER CAPITA FULL MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS, AND ADJUSTED TO 1967 DOLLARS, 1961–1979

Year	No. of Denoms.	Per Capita Full Member	Constant 1967 Dollars
1961	46	$69.00	$77.01
1962	42	68.76	75.89
1963	41	69.87	76.19
1964	41	72.04	77.55
1965	38	77.75	82.38
1966		(Not Reported)	
1967		(Not Reported)	
1968	52	95.31	91.47
1969	48	99.68	90.78
1970	45	$ 96.84	$83.27
1971	42	103.94	85.69
1972	39	110.29	88.02
1973	40	118.16	88.77
1974	44	127.16	86.09
1975	43	138.54	85.94
1976	43	149.07	87.43
1977	45	159.33	87.78
1978	42	176.37	90.26
1979	44	197.44	90.82

3. SOME TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS

This year, this section of the **Yearbook** contains information on "Trends in Seminary Enrollment, 1975-1980," prepared by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, and "The 1980 Official Catholic Data," that is, data appearing as of Jan. 1, 1980, but gathered in 1979.

TRENDS IN SEMINARY ENROLLMENT 1975-1980

The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada

Fall 1980 proved to be the year when the rapid increase in theological seminary enrollments leveled off. After an average growth of 5.6% each of the last seven years, the rate of growth fell to only 2.4%. This is the smallest increase since 1972 when only 0.7% rise was experienced. Surprisingly enough this was precisely the opposite result from the balance of higher education in the United States where the increase is in excess of 4%. For the first time in four years the growth rate in the twenty-two Canadian schools failed to match that in the States. Canadian enrollments grew only 0.5%. Full details are available in Table. 1.

TABLE 1
AUTUMN ENROLLMENTS IN ATS MEMBER SCHOOLS

	1975	*1976*	*1977*	*1978*	*1979*	*1980*
Number of Schools	192	193	191	193	193	194
Total Enrollment	40,895	43,023	45,222	46,460	48,433	49,611
By Nation						
Canada	1,965	1,880	2,100	2,288	2,707	2,731
United States	38,930	41,143	43,122	44,172	45,726	46,880
By Membership						
Accredited	34,681	38,234	41,303	42,839	44,654	45,952
Not Accredited	6,214	4,789	3,919	3,621	3,779	3,659
Professional Pgms.	37,179	39,291	41,665	42,823	44,374	45,571
% Total	90.9%	91.3%	92.1%	92.2%	91.6%	91.9%
Graduate Pgms.	3,716	3,732	3,557	3,637	4,059	4,040
% Total	9.1%	8.7%	7.9%	7.8%	8.4%	8.1%

Women in Theological Schools

The increase in the number of women enrolled in schools of theology has been the most striking phenomenon to occur in the 1970s. Table 2 provides the specific data. In 1972, when enrollment data distributed by sex was requested for the first time, there were only 3,358 women reported, comprising 10.2% of the student population. This number has risen rapidly each year to 10,830 in 1980, or 21.8% of the total. This is an increase of 222.5% in eight years. In sharp contrast, the number of men enrolled has increased only 30.7% in the same period. Table 2 does reveal that the rate of increase appears to be diminishing. For example, in the first four years of the period women students increased at an average of 21.8% *per year*. In the last four years this average fell to 10.2%, slightly less than half. And the 6.1% increase in 1980 represents the smallest growth in any year.

TABLE 2
WOMEN THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

	Number of Women	% Annual Increase	% Total Enrollment
1972	3,358		10.2%
1973	4,021	+19.7%	11.8
1974	5,255	+30.7	14.3
1975	6,505	+23.8	15.9
1976	7,349	+13.0	17.1
1977	8,371	+13.9	18.5
1978	8,972	+ 7.2	19.3
1979	10,204	+13.7	21.1
1980	10,830	+ 6.1	21.8

Black Theological Students

ATS has collected racial enrollment data since 1970, and this information is reported in Table 3. In the decade the number of blacks has risen from 808 in 1970 to 2,205 in 1980, an increase of 172.9%. Since total seminary enrollments rose only 59.7% in that period, it is obvious that the proportion of black students is increasing. Yet they still comprise only 4.4% of the total student population, far below the percentage in the general populations of the two nations. Furthermore 632 of these black students are enrolled in the five predominantly black institutions, leaving only 1,573 to be distributed among the 189 chiefly white schools.

TABLE 3

BLACK THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

	Number of Black Students	% Annual Increase	% Total Enrollment
1970	808		2.6%
1971	908	+12.4%	2.8
1972	1,061	+16.9	3.2
1973	1,210	+14.0	3.6
1974	1,246	+ 3.0	3.4
1975	1,365	+ 9.6	3.3
1976	1,524	+11.6	3.5
1977	1,759	+15.4	3.9
1978	1,919	+ 9.1	4.1
1979	2,043	+ 6.5	4.2
1980	2,205	+ 7.9	4.4

Hispanics in Seminaries

These data have been collected since 1972, and the statistics are reported in Table 4. While the increase has been substantial, Hispanics still are only 1.8% of the total enrollment, far below their proportion in the population.

TABLE 4

HISPANIC STUDENT ENROLLMENT

	Number of Hispanic Students	% Annual Increase	% Total Enrollment
1972	264		0.8%
1973	387	+46.8%	1.1
1974	448	+15.8	1.2
1975	524	+17.0	1.3
1976	541	+ 3.2	1.3
1977	601	+11.1	1.3
1978	681	+13.3	1.5
1979	822	+20.7	1.7
1980	894	+ 8.8	1.8

Pacific/Asian American Students

Enrollment data for this group has now been received for four successive years, and these are reported in Table 5. It is readily apparent that both the numbers and the rate of increase is quite modest.

TABLE 5

PACIFIC/ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENTS

	Number of Pacific/Asian Students	% Annual Increase	% Total Enrollment
1977	494		1.1%
1978	499	+ 1.0%	1.1%
1979	577	+15.6	1.2
1980	602	+ 4.3	1.2

Native American Students

The Association has received enrollment data for Native American students (Indians or Eskimos of U.S. or Canadian birth) for only two years. In 1979 there were 52 students reported. This number increased to 64 persons in 1980.

THE 1980 OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DATA

Catholics in the 50 States, including all families of the defense forces both at home and abroad, and diplomatic and other services abroad, now number 49,812,178, according to **The Official Catholic Directory** for 1980, issued by P. J. Kenedy & Sons, New York. The new total represents a decrease over last year of 210,143. The status of the Church is recorded as of January 1, 1980.

The Official Catholic Directory for 1980, containing over 1,550 pages, is in its 148th printing, and sells for $55.00.

Archdioceses and Dioceses

There are now 32 archdioceses in the United States, with a Catholic population of 21,532,817, and 138 dioceses recording a Catholic population of 28,279,361—for a total Catholic population of 49,812,178.

The 32 archdioceses reported a gain of 165,441, and the 138 dioceses increased by 44,702. Chicago remains the largest archdiocese with a Catholic population of 2,406,728, followed by Los Angeles, 2,069,682, and Boston, 2,017,133 (Los Angeles, with an increase of 105,682 over 1979, exceeded two million for the first time.) Over one million are New York, 1,825,090; Newark, 1,390,427; Philadelphia, 1,359,987; and Detroit, 1,190,042. Brooklyn continues as the largest diocese, with a Catholic population of 1,338,554, followed by Rockville Centre, reporting 1,040,517. In addition, nine archdioceses and five dioceses reported Catholic populations of over one-half million.

Fifteen dioceses reported no change in Catholic populations, and forty-six reflected decreases. Advances were reported by 109 sees. The largest increases have been noted in Los Angeles, 105,682; Miami, 31,300; Trenton, 29,709; and Cleveland, 28,300. The largest decreases were noted in Brooklyn, 120,397; Buffalo, 64,152; Fresno, 41,296, and the Military Vicariate, 25,000.

Hierarchy and Clergy

The 1980 **Directory** lists 353 members of the hierarchy—an increase of 8 over the 345 listed a year ago.

An increase of 191, brings the total of ordained priests to 58,621; there are now 35,418, or 54 fewer, diocesan or secular priests, and 23,203 religious order priests, an increase of 245. Permanent deacons, numbering 797, were added during the past year to the 3,296 recorded in 1979, to bring the current total to 4,093, for a total of 62,714 clergy. Professed religious personnel include 7,941 brothers, a decrease of 24, and 126,517 sisters, representing a decrease of 1,861.

	1960	1970	1980
Priests	53,796	59,192	58,621
Deacons	—	—	4,093
Brothers	10,473	11,623	7,941
Sisters	168,527	160,931	126,517

The **Directory** reports 18,003 parishes with resident pastors, an increase of 35, and 791 parishes without resident clergy, an increase of 64, for a record total of 18,794 Catholic parishes in the 50 States—up 99. Also listed are 3,746 missions—down 279; 1,621 stations—down 201; and 9,184 chapels—down 301.

Educational Institutions

There are a total of 10,259 separate educational institutions—114 fewer than reported in 1979. Included are 92 diocesan seminaries; 252 religious order seminaries or novitiates and scholasticates; 239 colleges and universities; 894 diocesan and parish high schools; 633 private high schools; 7,847 parish elementary schools; and 302 private elementary schools. There are, in addition, 127 protective institutions, with 10,059 youths in attendance.

Teachers

Full-time teaching staffs of all educational institutions under Catholic auspices, have decreased by 1,436, to a total of 167,713, comprising 5,444 priests; 200 scholastics; 3,271 brothers; 41,135 sisters; and 117,663 lay teachers. There are 356 fewer priests; 38 more scholastics; 92 more brothers; 2,578 fewer sisters; and 1,368 more lay teachers than a year ago.

In 1944, when first recorded, lay teachers numbered 7,633 (8.25%). Their number continually increased through 1971, when 106,844 outnumbered religious teachers for the first time. Today, lay teachers represent 70.2% of all teachers in Catholic schools (68.7% in 1979).

	1944	1950	1960	1970	1980
Priests	4,647	7,436	10,890	9,958	5,444
Scholastics	—	405	802	596	200
Brothers	3,233	3,411	4,778	5,297	3,271
Sisters	76,908	82,048	98,471	85,616	41,135
TOTAL RELIGIOUS	84,788	93,300	114,941	101,467	50,050
Lay Teachers	7,633	13,477	45,506	98,001	117,663
GRAND TOTAL	92,421	106,777	160,447	199,468	167,713

Seminaries and Seminarians

During 1979, there were in operation the same number of diocesan and 6 fewer religious order seminaries. The 92 diocesan seminaries report enrollments of 8,552 seminarians, a decrease of 142, while the 252 novitiates and scholasticates of the religious orders have 4,674 students, or 592 fewer, indicating a total of 13,226 candidates for the priesthood, 15,680 fewer than the 28,906 seminarians reported ten years ago in 1970.

Colleges and Students

The 239 Catholic colleges and universities, down 2 from the 241 reported in 1979, show an enrollment of 505,076—up 21,316.

Children in Catholic Schools

The number of full-time pupils in Catholic elementary and high schools decreased 69,663 during the past year. The 894 parish and diocesan high schools, 11 fewer, report 505,955 pupils, a decrease of 6,458 over 1979; the 633 private high schools, 4 fewer, with 340,604, show an decrease of 589 in one year. Pupils in 7,847 parish elementary schools, down 82, now number 2,251,294, or 61,816 fewer, while students in the 302 private elementary schools now total 65,906, a decrease of 800, in 9 fewer schools.

Youths Under Religious Instruction

Religious instruction to children under released time, in religious vacation schools and other classes, according to the 1980 reports, is provided to 996,979 high school pupils (down 89,171), and 3,575,618 in elementary grades (down 124,261), for a total of 4,572,597 public school children receiving religious instruction, a year's decrease of 213,432 pupils. There is an aggregate, (including dependent children) of 8,264,717 American youth of all grades, under Catholic instruction—a decrease of 262,536 over comparable figures for 1979.

Hospitals

One less general and one more special hospital bring the number of Catholic hospitals to 720; bed capacity increased by 1,961, to 173,746. General hospitals number 633, with 166,998 beds, and 87 special hospitals accommodate 6,748. Patients treated increased by 557,257, to a record high of 34,728,822.

The number of Catholic nursing schools remained constant at 121. Student nurses enrolled numbered 19,423, a decrease of 713 over 1979. Children in the 207 orphanages and infant asylums decreased by 878, to a total of 13,628, while 16,456 children are cared for in foster homes. The total of 30,084 dependent children reflects an increase of 512. Homes for invalids and aged decreased by 1 and now number 497, with facilities for 63,245 guests, an increase of 342.

Baptisms, Converts, Marriages

The 910,506 baptisms recorded is an increase of 14,355 over 1979. The number of converts increased by 4,763, to a total of 81,968.

Marriages recorded increased by 5,032 to 345,521; during the same period 408,651 Catholics died in the U.S., 1,509 more deaths than in the previous year.

4. SURVEYS OF RELIGION IN AMERICAN LIFE

In this section there are three surveys recently completed which come from a variety of sources.

The first is by Dr. Loyde H. Hartley, dean of the Lancaster Theological Seminary of the United Church of Christ. It deals with the economics of American Protestant congregations. This is followed by selected data on church attendance in United States and Canada and other survey data gathered by the Gallup organization. The last survey is "Value of New Construction of Religious Buildings," which has been a yearly report in the **Yearbook** for many years. These data are derived from surveys prepared by the U. S. Department of Commerce.

INFLATION AND RECESSION HIT THE LOCAL CHURCH BUDGETS*

Loyde H. Hartley

INTRODUCTION

A congregation's finances remain a mystery to most church members. Although finance officers urge members to study budgets and treasurers' reports, most do not. Moreover, members seem to believe things will work out pretty well so long as the amount of income the church gets every year is the same or a little better than the previous year. This indifference may be fatal to many congregations.

The purpose of the study, reported here in part, is to help congregations become more astute in their economic planning by alerting them to trends, identifying the kinds of policy decisions that might affect increases or declines of income, pointing out alternative financial strategies, and anticipating the effect that increased costs will have on congregations.

Most denominations do keep overall records of membership and finance, but these reveal very little of how the local church functions as an economic unit. Detailed scientific research about local church finances has not been undertaken in the past, perhaps because of some of the difficulties we encountered in obtaining accurate data.

Some congregations keep detailed records for only two or three years; others have insufficient records even for current years. Many smaller churches, especially those in rural areas, maintain no records at all, prepare no reports other than the oral reports of the treasurer, and throw away check stubs after a very few years. In some cases, expenditures are left largely to the discretion of the treasurer of the congregation who guards the confidentiality of financial records as a sacred trust.

For obvious reasons, these kinds of congregations were not included in the data of this report, but they are especially vulnerable to financial mismanagement and unexpected economic disaster.

Among those which do keep records over periods of time, there are many differences in the ways they report their expenses, and categories within the treasurer's reports are not always consistent from year to year. For example, one congregation reported a 400% increase in utility expenses one year. The increase was the result of a repair to the heating system which it had included under "utility expenses" instead of capital improvements. The research staff spent many

hours sorting out such variances in reporting.

Several churches the researchers wished to include in the sample refused to participate, largely because they did not perceive the value of doing the project for their own specific purpose. One out of every three congregations asked to participate declined even though they likely had the necessary records. And those that did participate found that the amount of time required to assemble, sort out, and provide the requested data was longer than they had expected. It exceeds in some cases six months. The researchers are grateful to these people (largely volunteers) for their valuable work. Through their effort we have been able to provide this report.

Data are most accessible for the year just completed. When the data were initially collected between Spring and Fall of 1979, the expenditures for that year were not yet available. The research team has now assembled the 1979 data. (Future researchers would be well advised to do annual panel studies of congregational finances rather than to seek historical data.)

In some instances, congregations could provide data for some but not all of the years requested. For them estimates were constructed based on their performance in years for which data were available. These estimates were made in such a way as to minimize any trends, and as a result, fail to take into account any exceptional event of financial importance which may have occurred during years the data were missing.

Notwithstanding all these difficulties, the data resulting from this effort are without parallel for describing the financial characteristics of congregations. They are unique because they portray the actual income and expenditures of local churches, not budgets for income and expenditures.

After all of the weeding out was done, 50 congregations participated. They are located in New England, Middle Atlantic and Southern states, in an area extending from Massachusetts to Alabama. One congregation from Arizona is also included. They are selected from diverse community settings, using a typology noted in Table 1. There is a larger number of urban churches because the researchers expected that here were the most acute financial difficulties.

TABLE 1.

The Number of Sample Congregations in Each Community Type

Mid-Town Locale	6
Inner City Locale	3
Inner Urban Neighborhood	7
Outer Urban Neighborhood	5
City Suburb	2
Metropolitan Suburbs	6
Fringe Suburb	1
Fringe Village	5
Fringe Settlement	2
Independent City	2
Rural Village	7
Rural Settlement	4

It is well known that many Protestant denominations had constant or falling real dollar receipts during the 1970s. This **Yearbook** has regularly reported the story. The congregations in this sampling show why this decline occurred. Their average income varied narrowly around $42,000 when dollars were held constant at the 1967 value. Some had dramatic increases in real receipts, others remained relatively stable during the decade, but the largest number by far experienced a serious decline. In addition, during the 1970s, a significant change took place in the proportion of total funds spent for goods and services. More of the church dollar is being spent for utilities and less for benevolence and pastoral services.

Membership ranges in the sample congregations from a low of 66 to a high of 1,913 persons in 1978, with an average of 563. Average attendance, on the other hand, is only 182, and ranges from a low of 58 to a high of 476.

The amounts expended in 1978 by these churches vary from a low of $21,730 to a

high of $391,660, and the median expenditure is $69,360 (average expenditure: $85,580).

The denominational affiliation of the sample congregations are as follows: United Methodist 7; United Presbyterian 6; Protestant Episcopal 5; United Church of Christ 22; Baptist 4; other 6.

Three Economic Types

The congregations in the sample differed dramatically in how well they were coping with financial aspects of their existence. About one-fourth (12 of the 50) had a real increase in spending power (meaning the value of their income and expense actually grew when it was calculated in constant dollars relative to a 1967 norm.) Another 15 congregations remained fairly stable. But 23, almost half of the total, were falling behind inflation. For the purpose of the study, we thus divided the congregations into these three types. Type 1 reported a gain of more than 10% in annual cash flow over the past five years. Type 2 reported neither an increase or decrease of more than 10%. Type 3 reported a decrease of more than 10%. Table 2 traces the average income in these three types.

TABLE 2.
Average Income from all Sources, 1970-79 (1967 = 100)

Year	Church Type 1 (N=12)	Church Type 2 (N=15)	Church Type 3 (N=23)	Total (N=50)
1970	$34,198	$36,620	$54,933	$44,462
1971	35,021	39,161	49,104	42,741
1972	34,738	40,325	48,300	42,652
1973	37,550	39,515	46,763	42,377
1974	37,726	40,784	44,719	41,860
1975	39,527	40,369	43,103	41,424
1976	43,038	39,157	42,512	41,632
1977	46,415	40,891	42,903	43,142
1978	47,588	40,516	39,990	41,971
1979	48,560	40,203	38,462	41,395

Type 1 shows regular increases for all ten years of the decade, a total of 42%. Type 2 shows modest gains early in the decade, but remained fairly constant over the past five years, pointing to the possibility that even the "stable" congregations are growing weaker. Type 3 finished 1979 with an average 30% decline from 1970. Since almost half the churches are Type 3, this is a very serious decline.

When broken down to how churches in different community locations are faring, Table 3 tells a story.

TABLE 3.
Three Economic Types of Congregations

	Urban	Suburban	Fringe Area	Rural Small Town	Total
Type 1	5	3	2	2	12
Type 2	5	0	4	6	15
Type 3	11	5	3	4	23
Total	21	8	9	12	50

Rural churches fared slightly better than their urban counterparts but there was no one community type where all churches were in difficulty or were doing financially better. Therefore it is misleading to assume that urban churches as a geographical group are in a dramatically different financial situation than suburban or rural churches. But when the urban category was broken into sub-categories, including inner-city, we found one of the three inner-city falling into the Type 2 and two into the Type 3 categories. Obviously these churches face serious economic problems.

What about membership? Clearly congregations with increasing membership fared better than those with stable or decreasing numbers, although the study did

show, amazingly, that some local churches with decreasing membership have done very well financially. On the other hand, financial growth lagged behind membership growth in some churches.

TABLE 4.
Three Economic Types of Congregations by Membership Growth or Decline

	Large Increase*	Small Increase*	Small Decrease*	Large Decrease*	Total
Type 1	5	4	3	0	12
Type 2	1	7	5	2	15
Type 3	2	5	11	5	23
Total	8	16	19	7	50

*Large increase = over 8% since 1975.
Small increase = 8 or less % since 1975.
Small decrease = 8 or less % since 1975.
Large decrease = 8 % since 1975.

The Middle-sized Church in Trouble

Another trend turned up by the study shows that churches with a membership between 400 and 800, traditionally considered the most fiscally stable by denominations, in fact had a more difficult time keeping up with inflation than did smaller or larger churches. Further examination will be necessary to determine if this is because smaller and larger churches benefit from economy of scale. It is possible that the larger churches can support both building and program, the smaller churches never had a full program anyway and have no intention now to form one, while the middle-sized church needs both program and building but hasn't enough money for both. If further analysis corroborates the financial vulnerability of churches with 400 to 800 members, a great many denominations will need to review their church extension policies. The ideal size for a congregation from a financial point of view may not fall in this range.

How the Money is Being Spent

Not only is there less money in the average local church but what there is is being spent in a different way. In 1972, an average total of 34.4 cents of every dollar spent by the 50 congregations was paid to the pastor as salary, benefits, or expenses. By 1979, this proportion had dropped to 28.3 cents per dollar.

CHART 1.
Percentage of Dollar Spent for Pastoral Services, 1972–1979

On the other hand, the proportion for utilities jumped from 7.45 cents of every dollar in 1970 to 10.9 in 1979. With the changes in fuel costs since 1979, this proportion very likely has increased at or above the rate of energy costs.

CHART 2.
Percentage of Dollar Spent for Utilities, 1970-1979

Equally as dramatic as the decline in money spent for pastoral service is the decline in the proportion these churches are setting aside for benevolences. They averaged 21.6 cents per dollar in 1969 and dropped to 16.56 cents in 1975. In the four years following 1975, however, there were slight gains annually.

CHART 3.
Percentage of Dollar Spent for Benevolence Giving, 1969-1979

These three expenditures account for roughly 60% of the churches' expenditures. The remaining 40% is divided among maintenance, support staff and local program.

Fluctuations

Income and expenses did not flow from year to year in a smooth curve. On the contrary, they sometimes fluctuated by increases of over 100% and by comparable decreases of 50% when compared to the previous year. The data for this phase of the study presents an aggregated total of 629 years of local church financial experience in the 50 congregations from 1965 through 1978. (Not every church had data for every year.) In 134 of these years (21%) the churches reported an increase in total income of 10% or more.

TABLE 5.
The Number of Years in Which Sample Congregations Reported an Increase of over 10% in Income by Source of Income (1965-1978)

	N	%
Offerings and Regular Contributions	52	39
Special Gifts, Bequests, Wills	43	32
Fund Raising Drives	14	10
Endowment, Rentals, Investments	13	10
Sale of Property	5	4
Bazaars, Fairs	4	3
Denominational Subsidy	1	1
Other	2	1
TOTAL	134	100

Regular giving and special gifts account for most of the increases, followed by fund-raising drives and increased income from investments. Other reasons are infrequently given. When the increase comes from gifts and bequests, however, there is often a comparable decrease in income the following year. Increases resulting from larger regular offerings are much more likely to be gains which continue for several years.

Who are the financial leaders?

In the sample, the 368 lay persons filing responses also gave some information about who they are and what their opinions are. Males outnumbered females by more than two to one, with 258 males (70.7%) and 106 females (29.3%) making up the total. Their average age is 46 years. Just under 40% hold professional occupations and another 16% are managers or owners of businesses. Another 20% are widely distributed through "other" occupations and just under 20% are clerical or sales workers. Only eight were employed by the local church as staff persons with financial responsibilities.

Most of the respondents have been members of their congregations for several years. Half joined before 1959 and 75% by 1970 or before. They are, moreover, frequent attenders, with 86.4% saying they are at church services every week. On the average, they spend three to four hours per week in church-related activities, and about two-thirds contribute $10 or more per week to their church. 75% of them have more than a high school education, and of these 30% have more than a college education. Of the total number, 52.7% serve on financial committees and 118 on general governing boards which handle financial policy. 15.2% indicated no formal committee membership.

These figures show that clearly the financial policy-makers and managers of church funds do not constitute a representative cross-section of their congregations. They are more highly educated, hold more prestigious occupations, are more active in the life of the church, and contribute more money to it than does the average Protestant church member. Males are proportionately over-represented.

Crises and Windfalls

As noted earlier, the amount of income and expenditure sometimes varies greatly from year to year. "What would you eliminate if you had to cut expenditures and what would you do with a large unexpected sum of money?" the respondents were asked. Tables 6 and 7 indicate their answers.

TABLE 6.
Rank of Proposed Emergency Expenditure Cuts

Rank Order	Item
1	Church support for projects beyond the local church
2	Money sent to the denomination
3	Maintenance of church buildings
4	Staff salary, other than pastor
5	Educational programs
6	Debt reduction payments
7	Pastor's salary

TABLE 7.
Rank of Proposed Use of a Hypothetical Gift of $50,000

Rank Order	Item
1	Place funds in endowment
2	Use for special local programs
3	Use to reduce debt
4	Purchase special equipment
5	Use for special maintenance or renovation
6	Invest money and give interest away
7	Give interest and principal to a worthy cause
8	Use for current expenses

Opinions About the Future

In contrast to the trends, financial officers are generally optimistic about the future finances of their churches. In fact, 36.2% say the church will, in the future, improve its financial situation; 53.1% predict it will stay the same; and only 10.6% expect a decline. These opinions contrast starkly with the trends reported earlier. According to the respondents, the three factors affecting the financial future are: 1) inflation, 2) how much people like the pastor, and 3) changes in the numbers of members.

Each was asked to evaluate the acceptability of several approaches to raising funds. Most acceptable to them are mailed requests for support, special worship services to emphasize stewardship, and every-member visits to solicit funds. Special events and bazaars are also acceptable, but they are looked upon with more disfavor than the standard stewardship procedures. Generally not acceptable is the use of outside professional fund-raisers and Bingo or other such games. It is also not acceptable in the opinion of these lay leaders to have no formal stewardship program. Moreover, they expect pastors to be actively involved in seeking funds but in such a way to share the task with lay people. See Table 8.

TABLE 8.
"How much involved in seeking funds for the church should the pastor(s) be?" Responses of 368 lay people

Percent	
16.8	Highly active, vocally involved
40.8	Moderately active, somewhat vocally involved
36.4	Somewhat active, leaving most leadership to lay people
5.0	Active behind the scenes only
1.1	Completely inactive

The opinion questionnaire, therefore, points to these preliminary conclusions:

—Financial leaders are optimistic about their churches' economic future in the face of trends indicating that most congregations in the sample are either in a long-term downward trend or are only in stable financial shape. Either the respondents are unaware of the effect of inflation and recession on their congregations or their faith in the future holds notwithstanding the trends. It is also possible that the small increases in inflated dollar contributions and the ups and downs of year to year income and expenditure disguise the long-term downward trend, and the leadership, therefore, is unaware of the reality of the decline.

—Financial leaders are not representative of their congregations but are selected because of their expertise and/or prestige. They form a kind of elite in the congregations which can exert significant power. The formal and informal decisions these people make will affect the survival chances of the congregations.

—Financial leaders place as their first priority the programs of the local church and as their lower priority, benevolence to the denominations and/or other service projects. It would seem to be in the interest of the denominations to effect a cost/benefit analysis to determine the degree to which members value denominational services on their behalf.

Some elements of a Financial Strategy for the 1980s

The conditions that have led so many churches into fiscal difficulty during the 1970s will, according to most predictions, be even more severe in the 1980s. Already many of the sample congregations appear to be facing a more serious economic decline than their leaders admit. If these and similar churches are to emerge from the next decade intact, fiscal planning becomes an immediate high priority. The following recommendations are directed toward pastors and lay leaders who deal with church finances.

- Alert members to the impact inflation has on spending power. The leadership seems to have deluded itself by taking comfort in small increases and ignoring the annual decline in purchasing power. Each congregation, by monitoring the particular effect inflation has had on the amounts spent for goods and services, can develop strategies for expenditures rather than waiting until the bills arrive and then dividing up the available income, as is too often apparently the case.
- Alert members to short and long-term economic strategies taken by other congregations. Economizing measures often have little or no effect on program while effecting large savings in utilities and maintenance costs. Many congregations in the sample already have implemented measures such as: retrofiting buildings with more efficient heating and cooling units sharing buildings with two or more congregations, changing from oil to a more economical fuel, changing the location of winter meetings to a home, buying heating fuel and other commodities in cooperation with several congregations to obtain lower prices, installing larger containers for fuel to enable bulk purchase, installing multi-energy source heating and cooling equipment to allow shifts from one fuel to another, etc. In some instances, congregations report that reducing the temperature has required them to end week-time leasing of offices or meeting rooms. Others that formerly contributed space to community service organizations are now less willing to do so. These changes must be counted as liabilities against the savings realized by lowering temperatures. Some congregations did major renovations and replacement of equipment earlier than was absolutely necessary because they correctly anticipated the effect of inflation on building costs.
- Some congregations are purchasing specialized pastoral services by the day. In this way those that cannot afford a full-time minister of education can get some expert help in areas such as curriculum development, teacher training, and youth work. (The implication that this trend will have on different forms of ministry, if the trend continues, is clear.)
- Seek help in managing endowments and small bequests of from $50,000 to $100,000. These leaders need more insight into what funds from bequests can and cannot do. One pastor, for example, complained, "I'm not sure what goes on with our little endowment fund. The bank sends us checks every year, but no one at the church knows how much is in the endowment or what restrictions are placed on it." He is not atypical. Because the bequests are

relatively infrequent, expertise in handling them is negligible. Moreover, even leaders who have expertise in business finance are on unfamiliar ground with wills, bequests, trusts, and endowments. Because the endowments are comparatively small, the churches cannot afford expert advice from brokers. There are several financial objectives that could be set for such funds, depending on the needs of the congregation: capital gains, income, security, and flexibility, so that the bequests can be used for objectives that change from time to time. The management of these funds begins by encouraging individuals who make major gifts and bequests to do so in a way that allows the church to benefit maximally from their generosity. Moreover, the regular contributors need better interpretation of the bequests lest they assume less need for their own regular gifts. Endowments are difficult for church leaders to discuss openly, and seem to be often shrouded in misunderstanding by laity and clergy alike. A more frank and open analysis of their potential and limits would lead to healthier management.

- Emphasize regular giving increases. An increase in regular offering or pledges is the most frequent reason for long-term improvements in the church's income. Respondents repeatedly emphasized their opinion that when members understand the need, they willingly give. The potential income from offerings may be much more than is presently realized. For example, data collected from a Seventh-Day Adventist congregation (not included as a sample in this report because it is exceedingly atypical) shows a per-capita contribution of slightly over $1,000 per member, roughly 8.3 times that of members of this sample. Member appear to increase their contribution when they are convinced of its importance to the life and ministry of the church.
- Take into account the size of the congregation, changes in the number of members, the types of community, and the age of members when you develop strategies. Churches with predominantly younger members will rely on contributions more than those with older people, which might depend more heavily on bequests. Larger churches with more extensive programs may have greater fixed costs, while smaller churches may be able to economize by using volunteers or simply not having program. Those in mid-town areas which attract commuters have fixed costs in simply reaching people. Different financial strategies for different types of congregations need to be developed.
- Be intentional about what savings the congregation wishes to effect. The proportion of dollars spent for pastoral services has been going down; for utilities—up; for benevolences—after a sharp downward trend in the 1970s, slightly up. According to the opinions of church leaders, funds for pastoral services are "least likely to be cut," but in actuality they have been cut. By more clearly identifying the areas in which they wish to economize, congregations may more easily set strategies to realize savings. Economic goals should be set for longer than a one-year period.
- Be alert to important economic thresholds. Churches that go through economic decline appear to go through a series of identifiable thresholds. What is lost by passing through another threshold can rarely be regained. They differ from congregation to congregation, but the following thresholds are most frequently mentioned:

1. Offerings have a declining rate of increase.
2. Offering decline.
3. Non-professional staff is dropped and not replaced.
4. Quality of music suffers because staff cannot be paid.
5. Major maintenance is postponed.
6. Church depends on gifts, bequests, and endowments for operating costs.
7. Adult education and fellowship is curtailed or abandoned.
8. Professional staff is reduced.
9. Emergency maintenance causes financial crisis.
10. Professional staff is reduced to part-time.
11. Children's education and fellowship is curtailed or abandoned.
12. Churches merge.

And when these things happen, particularly if they happen rapidly, the members describe their feelings in terms not unlike those used by people experiencing grief: anger, denial, bargaining, depression, acceptance, etc. The feeling level in the congregation has an enormous impact on pastoral ministry, for the pastor must deal with the emotions generated by loss among his congregation as well as within himself.

• Prepare for important changes in the role volunteers formerly held in the life of the congregation. The number of members with significant amounts of free time is declining as more and more women seek full-time employment and the mandatory retirement age advances to 70 years. In the past, congregations have relied heavily on women and retired men for volunteered time. They have taught, planned, implemented programs, done community service, served on committes, visited, and in many cases even did secretarial and janitorial work. As these volunteers become less available, paid staff will need to assume the duties or they will be dropped.

• Articulate more clearly the benefits of services rendered to the congregation or on its behalf by the denomination in relation to dollars contributed by the congregation. According to the survey, benevolences for denominational use would be among the first items to go should the congregation be faced with financial crisis. The low priority given the denomination may reflect the low value members place on these services. Communication between the denomination and local leadership about what is done with these funds needs to be strengthened, or even more denominational services will also have to be abandoned.

• Prepare budgets which interpret the congregation's objectives. Sample budgets from two congregations show this: The first, which owns rental properties, is in a state of acute crisis because one of its major renters is moving out and its projected income in this area will fall far short. The second has experienced a 50% loss of members over the past 15 years yet it has grown financially during this time. When the value of the dollar is held constant, its income for 1978 was 8% over 1970. Each budget reflects the spirit of its congregation. The budget of the former is a balance sheet, showing projected losses and gains over the previous year. The budget of the latter is a narrative, detailing how objectives were translated into finances. The latter church has not only been successful in subscribing its budget but has done so solely from contributions of members.

• The theology behind congregational economics needs a broader basis than is normally communicated through the notion of stewardship. The ways local church members get and spend money do reflect the ways they feel about participating in God's creative activity in the world. Church leaders were asked if they thought the members' beliefs had very much to do with how the finances were handled. 87% said they considered beliefs "important." When asked *What* specific beliefs they felt were important, the majority mentioned a commitment of members to specific local programs. Only a very few mentioned something reflective of the need for giving based on a notion of God's grace. Even fewer yet mentioned tithing. Their beliefs confirm what they are doing. As respondents repeatedly mentioned, people support activities they deem "important" to the life of the congregation and its ministry. What is important to them is more nearly characterized by the phrase "we would be building" than "we give thee but thine own."

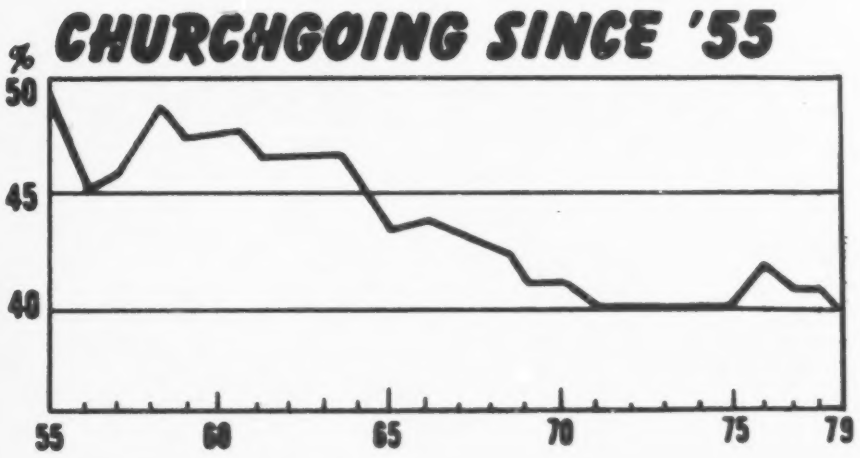
The ethics of congregational finances may be likened to a theology of ecology, one which rejects dominion as a ground for exploitation. At one extreme, congregational resources may be dominated by church leaders for exploitation. Criminal as well as many non-criminal forms of exploitation were studied in this project, such as manipulating funds for personal power of church leaders. At the other extreme, finances may be seen as the way the local church participates in creating God's future. The reality, of course, probably falls somewhere between the two. But the popular imagery of stewardship that casts members merely as "caretakers and managers of God's creation" may need to give way to a new imagery that stresses their *creative* involvement in God's historical purposes.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE POLLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

In the United States, in a typical week in 1979, 40 percent of adults 18 years of age or older said they attended church or synagogue. This is a slight downturn from 1978 and 1977, when 41 percent was recorded, according to the Gallup Poll, Princeton, New Jersey. These findings emerge from annual Gallup audits of church attendance. "To estimate the average attendance during 1979 surveys of representative samples of the adult population were made in eight selected weeks during the year. A total of more than 12,000 adults . . . were interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically-selected locations. This question was asked: Did you, yourself, happen to attend church or synagogue in the last seven days?"

Gallup notes that "about half of Catholics (52 percent) attend weekly, matching the percentage recorded for the 1978 audit. The Protestant figure remains the same (40 percent), while the percentage for Jews has declined from 27 to 20 percent."

CHURCHGOING SINCE '55



Church and synagogue attendance reached an all-time high of 49 percent in 1955 and again in 1958 and then declined slowly and steadily until it reached 40 percent during the period 1971–75. An increase to 42 percent was recorded in 1976, which declined to 41 percent in both 1977 and 1978 and then to 40 percent in 1979.

Among the large amount of survey data gathered by Gallup, we find that Catholics attend more regularly than Protestants; that women attend more frequently than men; that non-whites are better attenders than whites; people in the South and Midwest attend more frequently than those in the East and West; and the older a person is, the more likely he or she is to attend church.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE IN CANADA

In 1980, "about one in three (35 percent) of Canadians attended a church service during the first week in May. This is down slightly, but not significantly, from the 37 percent who reported attendance a year earlier," according to the "Gallup Report from Canada" appearing in PRRC *emerging trends*, Vol. 2, No. 6 (June, 1980), published by the Princeton Religion Research Center, Princeton, New Jersey.

The question used in the poll was: *"Did you, yourself, happen to attend church or synagogue in the last seven days?"* The results, based on 1,042 personal, in-home interviews with adults 18 years of age and over, conducted by the Gallup-affilitated Canadian Institute of Public Opinion, follow. "A sample of this size is accurate within a four percentage point margin, 19 in 20 times," Gallup notes.

Percent Attending Church/Synagogue

Atlantic Provinces	43%
Quebec	44
Ontario	32
Prairies	35
British Columbia	21
Men	31
Women	39
Centers over 100,000	28
10,000 to 100,000	44
Under 10,000	42
Elementary School	47
Secondary School	34
University	26

National

1980	35%
1979	37
1978	35
1974	39
1970	44
1965	55

Catholics

1980	50%
1979	53
1978	46
1974	59
1970	65
1965	83

Protestants

1980	26%
1979	26
1978	27
1974	27
1970	28
1965	32

VALUE OF NEW CONSTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS IN CURRENT AND 1972 DOLLARS
(In Millions of Dollars)

Year	Current Dollars	1972 Dollars
1970	$ 931	$1,056
1971	813	859
1972	844	845
1973	814	754
1974	918	711
1975	867	627
1976	956	688
1977	1,046	708
1978	1,248	751
1979	1,532[a]	794

[a]Preliminary

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Value of New Construction Put in Place," *Construction Reports*, March 1980, Table 1, p. 3 and U.S. Department of Commerce, *Construction Review*, Vol. 24, No. 8, December 1978, p. 3.

In constant dollar terms, estimates of the value of new church building continued to decline in the decade of the '70's but showed a slight upturn for the years 1976-79. New construction of religious buildings reached its peak in the early 1960's and since then has declined steadily until the slight upturn which began in 1976. It is estimated that new religious construction was valued in real terms at two and one half times as much in 1962 as in 1979 and one and a third times as much in 1970 as in 1979.

This general decline parallels the decline in the growth of church membership and birth rates and the rapid increase in building costs associated with the 1970's.

Importance of Religious Beliefs

"The proportion of Americans who say religion is 'very important' in their lives after having plunged from 75 percent in 1952 to 52 percent in 1978 has now shown a slight upturn to 56 percent" according to the PRRC *emerging trends* report for October, 1980 published by the Princeton Religious Research Center affiliated with Gallup, International.

In response to the question: "How important would you say religion is in your own life—very important, fairly important, or not very important?" the following trends appear:

How Important Is Religion in Life?

	Very	Fairly	Not Very	No Opin.
1952	75%	20%	5%	*%
1965	70	22	7	1
1978	52	32	14	2
1980	56	30	13	1

The decline between 1952 and 1978 in those who said religion was very important was far more marked among Catholics, from 83 to 51 percent (32 points), than among Protestants, from 76 percent to 60 (16 points).

"Since the 1978 survey," the report states, "a slight upturn of those holding this view is noticed for both Catholics and Protestants.

"The downtrend between 1952 and 1978 was similar for men and women, although more women than men put a high premium on religion in their lives." The data show that the percentage of women saying that religion was "very important" in their lives declined from 79 percent in 1952 to 62 in 1980 (17 points), where for men in the same period it dropped from 68 percent to 49 (19 points), thus providing a similar trend.

Among the 18-24 age group a particularly sharp downtrend in those saying religion was very important in their lives was noted. In 1952, 64 percent of the 18-24 age group said religion was very important, whereas in 1978 the percentage was only 37, a 27 point decline. For the nation as a whole, the decline between 1952 and 1978 was 23 percent.

Denominational Switching

A question asked in a Gallup survey provides some interesting information on denominational switching. "Fewer than half of U.S. adults (43 percent) say they have always been a member of their present denomination."

Following are the results by groups:

Percent Saying Have Always Been Member of Present Religion/Denomination

NATIONAL	43%
Men	39
Women	47
East	46
Midwest	42
South	48
West	33
Whites	44
Non-whites	35
18-24 years old	33
25-29 years old	38
30-49 years old	42
50 and over	50
College background	46
High school	42
Grade school	40

Married	46
Single	35
Separated	28
Divorced	36
Protestants	42
Catholics	55
Protestant Denominations	
Lutherans	47
Methodists	43
Baptist group of churches	41

"Most likely to say they have always been members are women, Southerners, whites, persons 50 or older, survey respondents who have had at least some college training, and married persons," it is noted.

A greater proportion of Catholics (55 percent) than Protestants (42 percent) say they have remained in the same faith into which they were born. For Protestant denominations, those in the Lutheran family were the most stable, with 47 percent still in the denomination in which they were born, as compared with 43 percent of Methodists and 41 percent for the Baptists.

The above information was cited in PRRC *emerging trends*, June, 1980, published by the Princeton Religion Research Center, June 1980, P. O. Box 5, Hopewell, NJ 08525.